

# THE WRESTLER

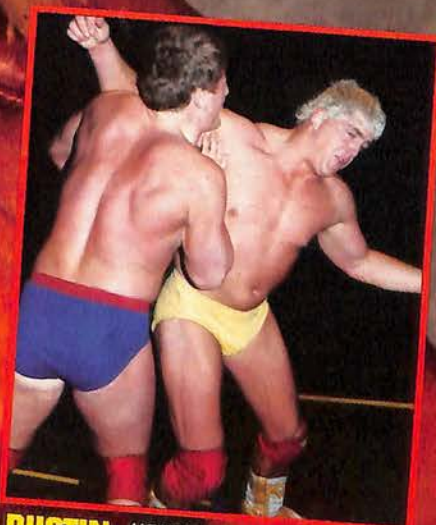
# Wrestler

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# Wrestler<sup>THE</sup>

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.....Elizabeth A. Hunter  
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT.....Ed Emelett

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TECHNICAL ADVISER/PRODUCTION  
Doug Heller

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES  
Nancy Parsons  
P.O. Box 910  
Fort Washington, PA 19034

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# LETTERS YOUR

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## "BABY" BROTHER

I'm shocked that Owen Hart pulled that little stunt at King of the Ring. Actually, I'm not. It seems like the kind of thing a little whining baby would do. He had to have Jim Neidhart help him beat Razor Ramon because he couldn't do it himself.

It wasn't smart of "The Anvil" to do what he did. He made a big mistake, because he not only has Bret Hart mad at him, but also Razor Ramon.

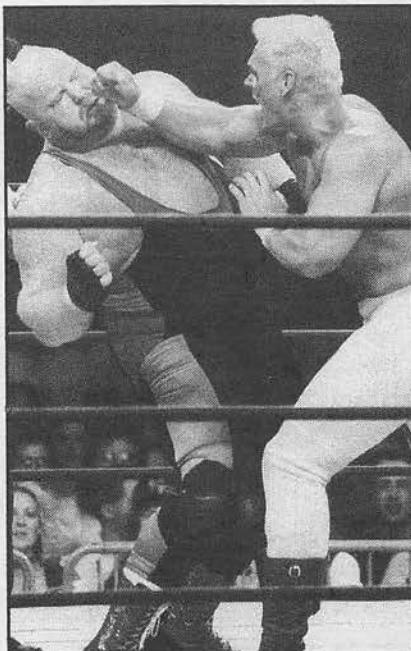
I think someone should handcuff Owen to the ring, diaper him, and stick a bottle in his mouth. At least we wouldn't have to hear the baby whine anymore!

TRACY WINGATE  
Jefferson City, MO

## WCW LOYALTY

Throughout 1993, Big Van Vader dominated WCW. Along with Sting, he had classic matches that had people on the edges of their seats. Never before had a big man been as agile. The greatest wrestler ever, Ric Flair, ended Vader's dominance at Starrcade '93 in a match that will never be forgotten. Flair, Sting, and Vader made WCW the greatest organization in America.

When Hulk Hogan entered WCW, it seemed as if everyone else was swept under the carpet. I have faith that one day the "Nature Boy" will again be WCW champion. It makes me sad to think of Hulk Hogan brawling his way to yet another world title, and



Big Van Vader and Sting are two of the men who have boosted WCW's status, according to reader Matthew C. Baker. He is upset the federation is sweeping them aside to focus on Hulk Hogan.

I beg for Vader or Flair to run the "Immortal One" out of WCW. I also ask the WCW suits to remain loyal to the men who got them where they are today.

MATTHEW C. BAKER  
Stoke-on-Trent, England

## TALENT RAID?

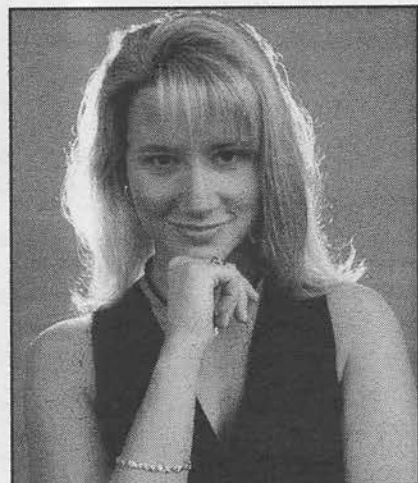
"The WWF Midyear Report" (September 1994) was right on target. Though my wrestling loyalties lie with the WWF, its report card grades were an accurate reflection of a difficult first half of 1994.

But things could be better. As WCW makes room for Hulk

Hogan, many of its other top stars are feeling the cold chill of the "Huckster's" enervating shadow. The time is ripe for Vince McMahon to do some talent raiding of his own. The following personalities would be perfect for the WWF:

**Big Van Vader.** Hogan this, Ric Flair that. Yet so little attention is being paid to the man who was WCW in 1993. Vader is the most awesome force in WCW and would wreak havoc in the WWF. Imagine Vader-Bret Hart, Vader-Lex Luger, or, best of all, Vader-Undertaker!

**Tammy Fytch:** It's time for the first lady to make the jump. Maybe Brian Lee isn't ready for prime time yet, but Tammy certainly is. She has already climbed and conquered Smoky Mountain; there's no limit to what she could accomplish in the WWF.



How would Tammy Fytch fare in the WWF? Fine, says reader John Orquiola.



**Rick Rude:** Another WCW big wheel that became a fifth wheel. Is there any doubt that the "Ravishing One" is among the best in the world? Yet Rude has never held a true world title. Rude may be the only wrestler in the world who can outmaneuver and outwrestle Bret Hart. He more than deserves the chance.

**Missy Hyatt:** Not scheduling a Hogan-Flair pay-per-view was a WWF blunder, but not signing Missy would be the biggest mistake of all! Compared to Gorilla Monsoon and Stan Lane, her voice in the broadcast booth would be more than welcome. And who says she should just be a broadcaster? To quote Hyatt herself, she could be so much more ...

And so could the WWF. It's already the best, but adding any of the above talent would only make it better.

JOHN ORQUIOLA  
Boston

#### TAG BAG

I'm reading Dave Rosenbaum's column ("No Holds Barred," August 1994) where he complains



WCW's tag team roster isn't all that intimidating, claims reader Jim Imbruglia. He notes Kevin Sullivan and Cactus Jack were unable to win the title until special referee Dave Schultz attacked The Nasty Boys' Jerry Sags.

how lousy the tag team scene is in the WWF, and how great it is in WCW. But is it really?

Kevin Sullivan and Cactus Jack couldn't win the WCW tag title

until a referee blatantly attacked Jerry Sags and gave them the belts. So they can't be that great a team. Harlem Heat were good in Global, but lost something in WCW. Tex Slazenger and Shanghai Pierce looked like they were going places, but lost their way. And the team of 2 Cold Scorpio and Marcus Alexander Bagwell has disbanded. That in itself is no big loss.

JIM IMBRUGLIA  
Medford, MA

#### TED DI-SPICABLE

Ted DiBiase should really be ashamed of himself for what he is doing to Nikolai Volkoff. I hope Virgil can get through to Nikolai and set him straight. DiBiase is

what I don't want this sport to become. I have a good idea: Virgil and Volkoff should team up, and leave DiBiase a poor, pitiful fool.

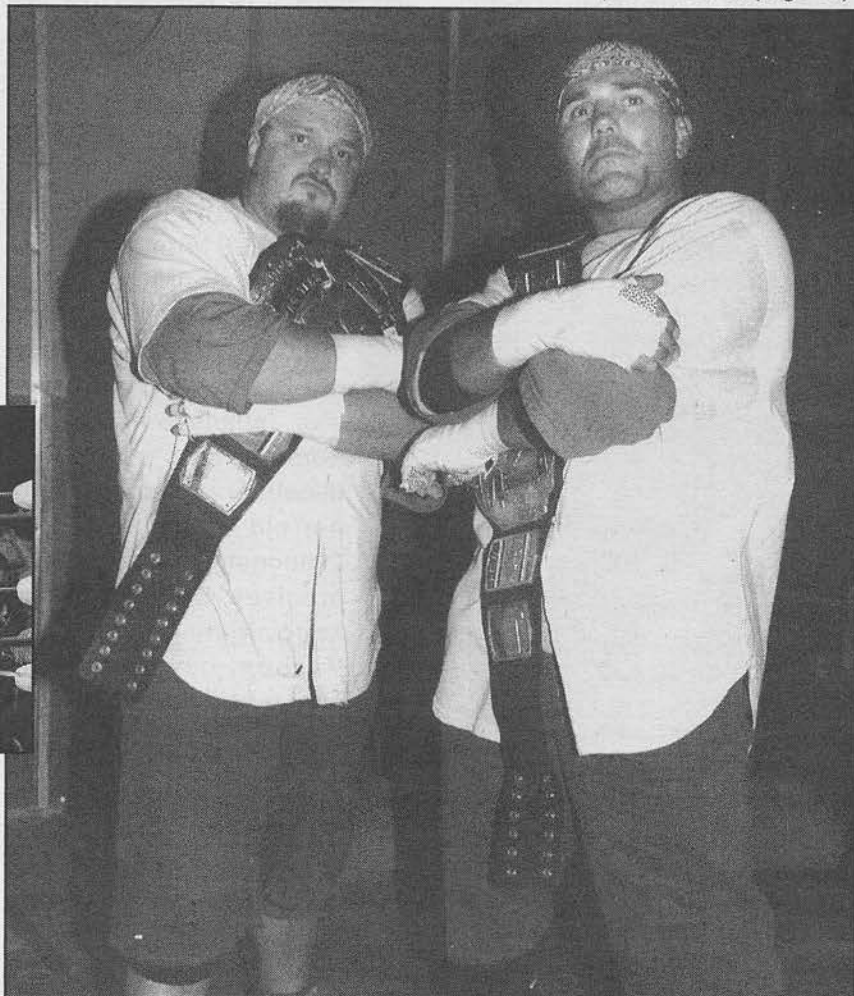
PRENTISS PICKETT  
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#### THAT'S WRESTLING!

I'm a fan of two independent federations: Eastern Championship Wrestling and Smoky Mountain. If I could, I'd arrange a dream card featuring all-stars from each federation and hold it at a neutral site like Cleveland or Chicago.

Think of the wrestling and managerial possibilities! Sabu vs. Brian Lee ... Jim Cornette vs. Paul E. Dangerously ... Shane Douglas vs. Tony Anthony ...

(Continued on page 52)



Imagine a card pitting the best of Eastern Championship Wrestling against Smoky Mountain's finest. Reader William Sherwood would like to have it happen, and have Public Enemy challenge The Rock 'n' Roll Express.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

By Bill Apter

**I**N EFFECT, **VINCE McMAHON** has pinned the U.S. government.

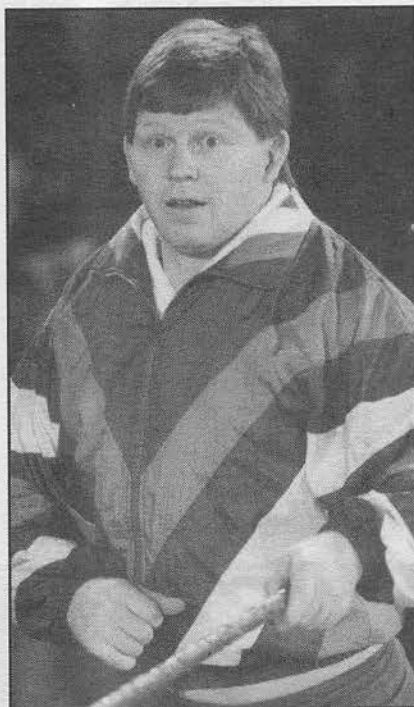
The WWF head was acquitted on charges of conspiring to distribute steroids to his federation's wrestlers at a Federal trial in Uniondale, New York, not far from

Nassau Coliseum, where many WWF cards are held. McMahon, who had been recuperating from neck surgery, felt so good after acquittal that he returned to *WWF Monday Night Raw* in little more than a week. There, broadcast partner **Randy Savage** welcomed him back and saluted his defense attorneys.

McMahon's return to *Raw* coincided with easily the best women's match on U.S. TV in years. World Women's champion **Alundra Blayze**, who has extensive Japanese experience from her days as **Madusa Miceli**, finally faced one of her old foes on U.S. soil (Youngstown, Ohio, to be precise). Beefy **Bull Nakano**, managed by **Luna Vachon**, gave Blayze all she could handle in an action-packed, non-title match that ended in a double-countout. Nakano and Blayze are slated to regularly go at it for the next few months. It promises to be thrilling!



It's thumbs up for Vince McMahon after the WWF head was acquitted in Federal court on charges of conspiring to distribute steroids. Less than 10 days after the verdict, he returned to his TV work on *WWF Monday Night Raw*.



Hearing boos is not something Bob Backlund is used to. But the former WWF World champion hasn't won much support for his stand against current champion Bret Hart and today's other stars in the federation.

mind on the Youngstown card. The "Heartbreak Kid" got partial revenge for his ladder match loss to **Razor Ramon** at *WrestleMania X* with a victory over the "Bad Guy." One man didn't need reminding. **Diesel** honed his skills with the help of Michaels, and eventually became Intercon-

In case you forgot what a superb wrestler **Shawn Michaels** is, you were re-





Things look pretty wonderful for the tag team Pretty Wonderful, as members Paul Orndorff and Paul Roma hold their WCW World title belts. Orndorff and Roma defeated Cactus Jack and Kevin Sullivan at Bash at the Beach.

tinental champion. He was at ring-side, and his interference helped Shawn win.

**Bob Backlund** doesn't think much of **Bret Hart**, and made it clear during the "King's Court" segment on *Raw*. The former WWF World champion told **Jerry Lawler** how much he detested the current champ, and nearly went off the deep end while doing so. To see someone like the low-key Backlund doing this is an immense shock. What's gotten into him?

The WWF continues to make its mark internationally. Half of the talent roster recently toured Europe (and many of the wrestlers went back in September), while the other half went to Asia for cards in the Philippines, Hong Kong, and Singapore. Every date was virtually a sellout, and each

was headlined by **Owen Hart** challenging big brother Bret. Memo to ECW: The card in Singapore featured *no* caning matches.

Three days after **Hulk Hogan**

testified at the McMahon trial, the "Hulkster" wrestled his first match in WCW. He left Orlando, Florida, with the World title—his sixth overall—after pinning **Ric Flair** to headline the Bash at the Beach pay-per-view.

"I knew I'd do it, brother, even if few else did," Hogan exulted. "'Hulkamania' is alive and well in WCW!" He survived attacks from **Sherri Martel**, who was at ring-side helping her man Flair.

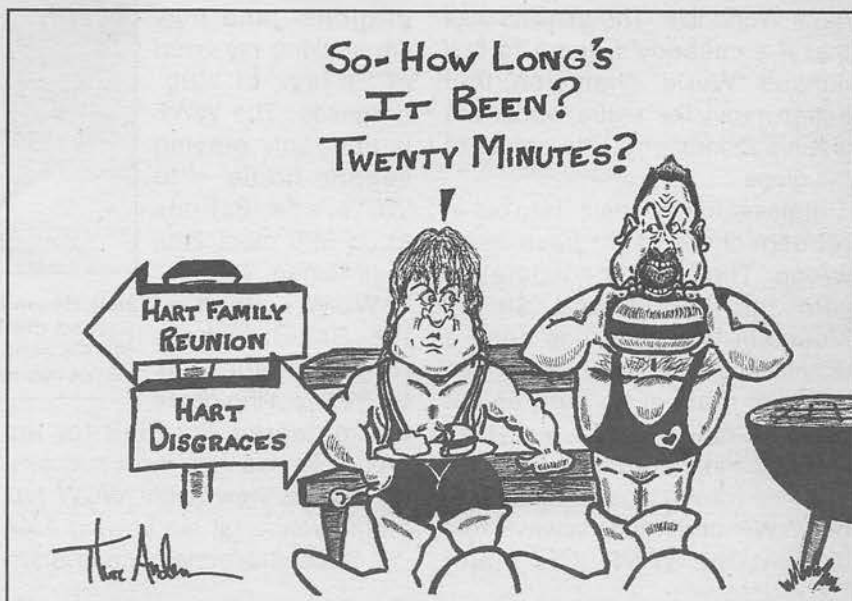
Hogan's acting commitments may prevent him from defending the belt frequently, though he is expected to appear at most pay-per-view and Clash of the Champions cards. That may make it easier for Flair, U.S. champion **Steve Austin**, TV champ **Lord Steven Regal**, or even **Sting** to wrest the title from the "Hulkster."

"I'd love to get a shot at the old guy," Austin said. "He's had his moments. It's time for mine."

Regal wants a title bout, too. "A typical American boor, that Hogan. All bluster and no luster. In England, the bloke would be selling fish and chips near Piccadilly Circus."

**Paul Roma and Paul Orndorff,**

(Continued on page 54)





# NO HOLDS BARRIED

with David Rosenbaum

**F**OR YEARS, THE editors and writers of this magazine (myself included) have used considerable space espousing the virtues of inter-federation participation. In *Wrestling Superstars*, a sister publication, most of our dream matches have involved WCW vs. WWF wrestlers. It's the nature of the beast: We want what we can't have.

We've also encouraged a situation where champions defend their belts on turf other than their own, as Kerry Von Erich and Jerry Lawler did years ago with the AWA World title. The thinking was that if somebody's going to call himself "World" champion, that better mean the entire world, not just his federation's little corner of the globe.

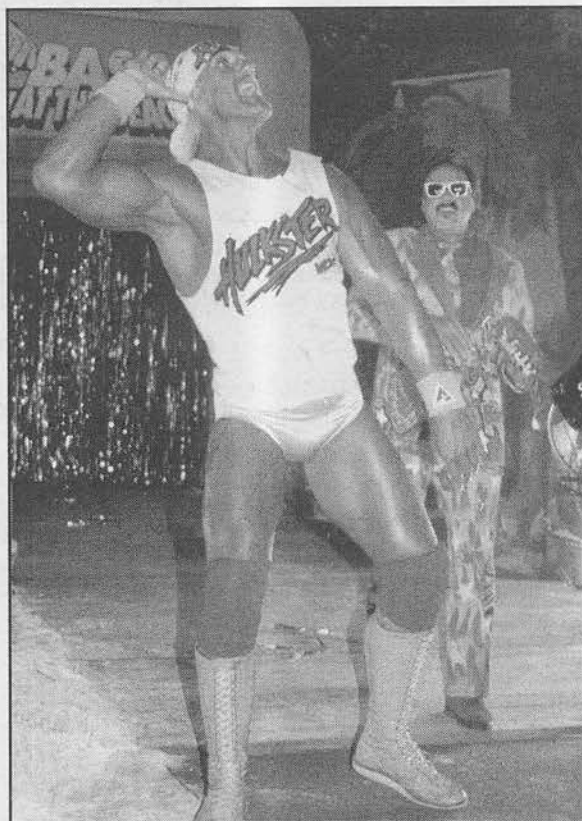
It pains me to admit this, but in retrospect we might have been wrong. The WWF's cooperation with the USWA and Smoky Mountain Wrestling has been a dismal failure that has stripped the WWF of most of its aura as the premier, major league wrestling federation in the world.

Vince McMahon and the rest of his WWF underlings always told us that the WWF was major

league and the others were minor league; cooperation was unthinkable. Would Major League Baseball allow a Triple-A team into the World Series? Ever seen an NBA vs. CBA dream championship series? Whose dream?

I scoffed at the WWF's arrogance—surely, there were several outstanding wrestlers in other federations—and now I'm shaking my head at its lack of stubbornness. The WWF is suddenly playing second-fiddle to WCW, and that has to do with more than Hulk Hogan.

WCW's Bash at the Beach, where Hogan made his WCW wrestling debut and defeated Ric Flair for the World title, was the most successful pay-per-view event WCW has had in years, far outdrawing even last December's memorable Starr-



Hulk Hogan is one reason why WCW has arguably surpassed the WWF. Another reason might be that the WWF's plan to affiliate with Smoky Mountain and the USWA has backfired.

cade. More importantly, Bash at the Beach had a higher rate than King of the Ring; that marked the first time a WCW pay-per-view

(Continued on page 56)

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BY  
ANDY  
RODRIGUEZ

# BLINDSIDED

**M**IDGET WRESTLING WAS once very popular in the United States. It may become popular again, thanks to people like Joe Kid and Mascarita Sagrada.

Recently Kid, who stands 4'1" and weighs 105 pounds, won a battle royal on a Southern Championship Wrestling card in Durham, North Carolina. This is noteworthy because all his opponents in that contest were normal-sized wrestlers. He eliminated his last foe by dropkicking him over the top rope.

"Yeah, it definitely is an accomplishment I'm proud of," Kid said. "In the first few minutes of the match, I was starting to wonder what the heck I was doing in the ring. But then I stopped worrying about being too small and just started to wrestle. The natural instincts took over. After a while, I was just one of the guys."

Kid says he isn't seeking more matches against the big guys, but hopes his victory has won new respect for him and his fellow midget competitors.

"We're great athletes, and we compete as hard as anyone," he said. "If you watch a midget match, you'll see the same holds and maneuvers you'll see anywhere else. We're just smaller, that's all. I'd like to see more promoters do what they've done here in Southern Championship Wrestling, to start featuring midget wrestling more."

When midget wrestling was featured more, the midgets were seen not as great athletes, but as sideshow attractions. They were an amusing distraction, the comic relief before the main event. They were popular, but they really weren't respected. They were thought of as elves, not wrestlers. That isn't the kind of popularity Kid wants.

"I want people to get into a midget match just as intently as they get into a bout between Hulk Hogan and Ric Flair," he offered. "I don't want to hear laughs—I want to hear cheers. And, honestly, the change has to start with us. We have to stop playing to the crowd with these cutesy antics, you know, like climbing under the referee's legs. We have to start conducting ourselves as athletes, not as kids on the playground."

In Mexico, the midget wrestlers are more readily regarded as athletes. When IWC/AAA held a card in New York, fans on the East Coast received their chance to see Sagrada, a terrific competitor whose exploits already are well-known to IWC/AAA fans in California.

On the card at The Paramount in Manhattan, Sagrada and Octagoncito took on Espectrito and Jerrito Estrada in a best-of-three-falls encounter. All four wrestlers were extremely impressive, but Sagrada, with his lightning quickness and athleticism, was the show-stopper. After dropping the first fall, Sagrada and Octagoncito rallied to win the bout.

Speaking through an interpreter, Sagrada said he was gratified to see such vigorous fan support in the U.S.

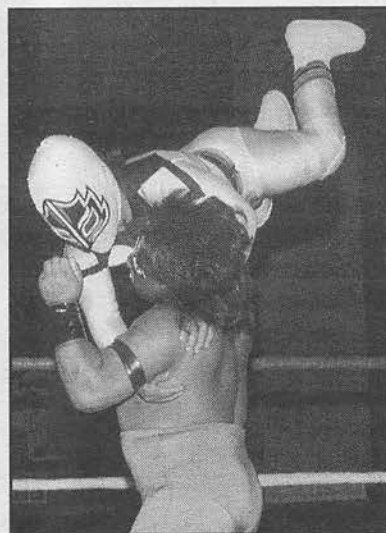
"The size of the people involved doesn't matter; a good match is a good match," he said. "We've been proving that for years in Mexico. Hopefully, fans in more parts of this country will discover the kind of wrestling we midgets can deliver."

Sagrada doesn't have to worry about anyone who saw his match that night.

"There were so many Mexican fans here, and they told me how good the midgets were, but I had my doubts," said Bob Miller from White Plains, New York. "I'm a believer now. Those guys were great!"

Unless they want to be outmaneuvered by the men from south of the border, the WWF and WCW may do well to consider adding more midget wrestling. It might be a bust, but it's worth the chance.

Kid and Sagrada are light in weight, but they're no lightweights.



*Sagrada leaps onto Espectrito*

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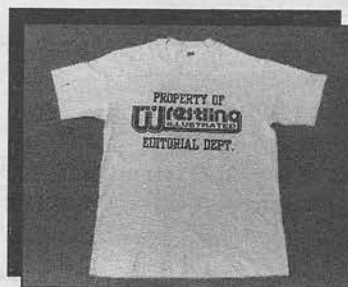
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Call as often as you like. The contest begins Sept 1, 1994, and runs through November 30, 1994. There is no age restriction to participate. The charge for each call is \$1.49 per minute. The contest is sponsored by Advanced Telecom Services and London Publishing Co. in connection with Pro Wrestling Illustrated. No purchase necessary to participate. Void in MN, NJ, LA, GA, and where prohibited by law. All unclaimed prizes will be awarded via second-chance drawing. The odds of winning are dependent on the number of entries. Complete rules and mail-in entries are available by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to PWI TRIVIA, P.O. Box 625, Devon, PA 19333. To win, answer seven consecutive trivia questions correctly and you automatically qualify for the monthly drawing of one \$100 winner. From Sept 1, 1994, until November 30, 1994, a total of 9 PWI T-shirts (retail value \$19.95 each) will be awarded. London Publishing Co. will select the winners. No substitutions allowed.

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**What manager brought Hulk Hogan to the WWF in 1979?**

- 1) Capt. Lou Albano
- 2) The Grand Wizard
- 3) Fred Blassie
- 4) Arnold Skaaland

**Which of the following wrestlers did Lex Luger not defeat to capture one of his four U.S. heavyweight titles?**

- 1) Nikita Koloff
- 2) Dusty Rhodes
- 3) Michael Hayes
- 4) Stan Hansen

**True or False: Dusty Rhodes was once managed by rulebreaking manager Gary Hart.**

- 1) True
- 2) False

**How did Ric Flair severely injure his back in October 1975?**

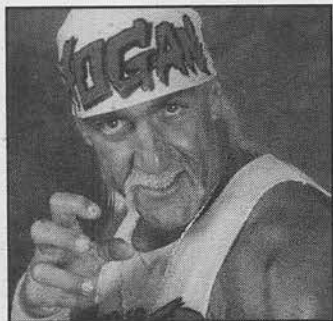
- 1) Airplane crash
- 2) Ring injury
- 3) Automobile accident
- 4) None of the above

**How did you do? If you're up for the challenge and want to put your wrestling knowledge to work, call now and go for the \$100!**



# Thumbs Up

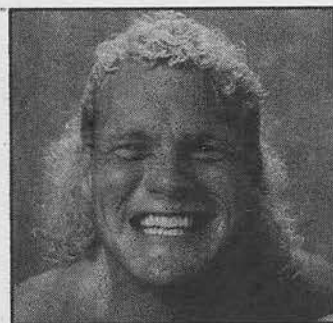
Each Issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.



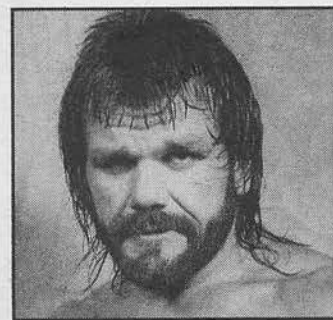
**Thumbs Up** to Hulk Hogan. While success is something we've become accustomed to from the "Hulkster," his performance at Bash at the Beach was absolutely out of this world! Here's all Hogan did: He came off a long layoff, entered a new federation, and defeated one of the all-time great wrestlers for the WCW World title ... just a few days after a grueling court appearance in the Vince McMahon trial. Even Hogan's many detractors must admit he pulled off a spectacular feat. This victory further cemented his place among wrestling's greatest.



**Thumbs Up** to Nick Bockwinkel. While we're on the subject of Bash at the Beach, a resounding cheer goes to the WCW commissioner for having the integrity to fine Sherri Martel \$25,000 for her interference in the Hogan-Flair match. That's a significant fine for any non-wrestler, and sends a message to every person throughout the federation: Heinous acts of interference will not be tolerated under any circumstances, especially in a championship match. Bockwinkel laid down the law once again, and did so with an unbiased decision. More power to him.

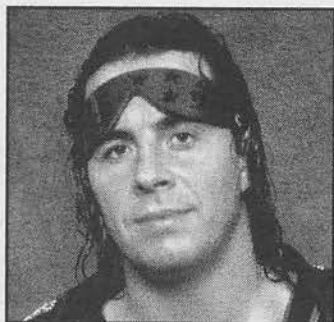


**Thumbs Up** to Sid Vicious. Great job, Sid! You're back in action and now the USWA heavyweight champion—your first title of any kind in years. Okay, so you basically stole the belt. But we're not going to get bent out of shape over aesthetics. We're going to offer some advice: Baby steps, Sid. Take things slow. Don't try to do everything at once. Be patient. You have the ability and you certainly have the physique. Sure, you want to make up for lost time, and you can. Just don't do it all at once. To paraphrase Mick and Keith, time is on your side.

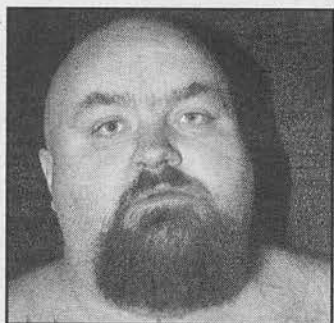


**Thumbs Up** to Steve Williams. Any American wrestler will tell you there's nothing tougher than winning a major title in Japan. Well, Steve "Dr. Death" Williams won three in one night! Williams pinned Mitsuharu Misawa in Tokyo for the All-Japan International, All-Japan United National, and Pacific Wrestling Federation titles. They're known collectively as the Triple Crown, and past winners include Jumbo Tsuruta, Stan Hansen, Terry Gordy, and Genichiro Tenryu. That puts Williams in elite company. Congratulations, Doc, on a wonderful achievement!

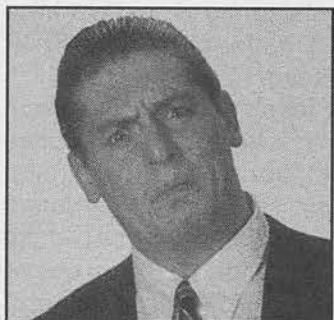
# Thumbs Down



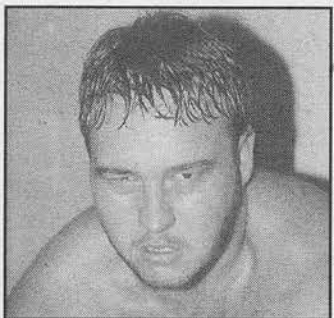
**Thumbs Down** to Bret Hart. Family feuds are one thing—and we realize the “Hitman” has his back against the wall in this situation—but he shouldn’t have signed for a steel cage match against his brother, Owen Hart, at SummerSlam ’94. Cage matches are for sworn enemies, not loving brothers in the midst of a heated argument. We fear one of them will get seriously injured and the other will regret it for the rest of his life. Since Owen has been the aggressor all the way, Bret must be the voice of reason. In this case, he hasn’t been. Shame on you, “Hitman.”



**Thumbs Down** to Bastion Booger. Showing less self-control and greater gluttony than any wrestler in history, this poor excuse for an athlete recently traded in his title shot for a large cheese pizza. Booger earned a shot at Midwest Territorial Wrestling champion Al Snow. Just before the bout, Machine Gun Kelly offered him the choice of his valet—Cookie—or a large pizza in exchange for the title shot. Booger hesitated at first, since he thought there were three choices: Kelly’s valet, a cookie, or a pizza. Booger took the pizza, ran, and didn’t think twice. What a pig!



**Thumbs Down** to Lord Steven Regal. Last month, we suggested there could be a fan favorite lurking in his Lordship. If so, he’s hiding it well. Regal showed his usual hateful and obnoxious side at Bash at the Beach. Antonio Inoki was receiving an award for service to wrestling when Regal broke up the ceremony. “How come a noble Englishman doesn’t get an award?” he asked. Push came to shove came to blow. In minutes, Regal had a new enemy and WCW had an unusual feud on its hands. His Lordship’s behavior was laughable, but we’ll laugh even harder when the legendary Inoki puts him in his place.

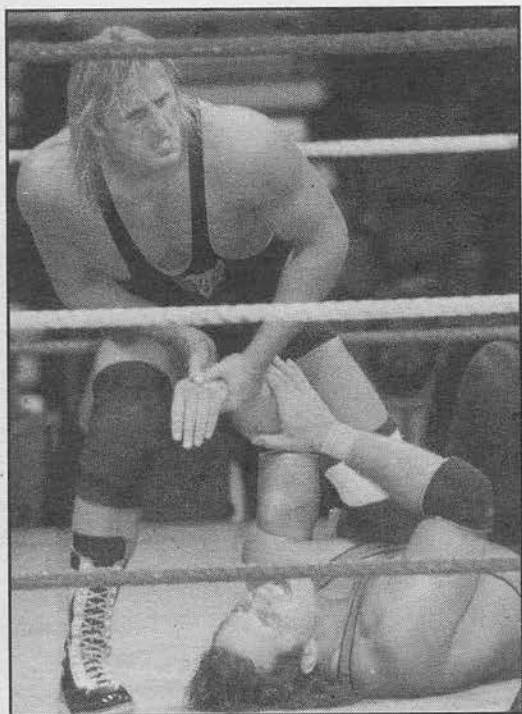


**Thumbs Down** to Doug Gilbert. With an assist from “Dream Machine” Troy Graham. They stand accused of piledriving Brian Christopher on a table outside the ring after Christopher pinned Graham for the USWA Southern title. Disgusting. Losing is one thing, but hasn’t anyone heard of losing with dignity? Not Gilbert, of course. Look at his entire family. Not Graham, either, who’s really a nightmare. It almost goes without saying—or at least it should—that this type of behavior is damaging to the sport. Maybe somebody should just ban all Gilberts.



# CORRESPONDENTS

## REPORTS



Owen Hart puts the pressure on Bret Hart during the WWF's recent "Summer Sizzler Tour." The "Hitman," however, has been able to retain his World title in a series of marathon matches.

**East Rutherford, NJ (Correspondent—Kevin Burke):** A new twist was added to the feud between Bret and Owen Hart on this leg of the WWF's "Summer Sizzler Tour." The match was contested under marathon rules, meaning the wrestler accumulating the most falls in 60 minutes would be declared the winner.

Predictably, both Harts started slowly, doing their best to conserve energy. Both tried headlocks and armbars in the first few minutes. In fact, the first fall didn't come until the 30-minute mark, when Bret rolled up Owen.

A major turning point came several minutes later when Bret injured one of his legs. Owen took notice of this and relentlessly attacked the limb. He won the next two falls by forcing Bret to submit to the figure-four leglock.

When the ring announcer told the crowd that less than 10 minutes remained in the match, Bret mounted his comeback. Though his leg was still hurting, he used a bulldog on Owen, then landed an elbowdrop from the second rope.

When Bret hooked on his "sharpshooter," Owen wasted no time in giving up. Bret wanted no parts of a tie, however. With less than a minute to go, he again put "The Rocket" in the "sharpshooter" and won the deciding fall by submission.

In other bouts: The Kid pinned Kwang the Ninja ... Duke Droese

pinned Rick Martel ... WWF World tag team champions The Headshrinkers beat Double Trouble ... Randy Savage beat Jerry Lawler ... Nikolai Volkoff pinned Virgil ... Yokozuna pinned Typhoon.

**Philadelphia, PA (Correspondent—Bill Scott):** Even by ECW standards, the feud between tag champs Public Enemy and Terry and Dory Funk has been intense.

They settled the score in a barbed-wire match at the ECW Arena. The action was violent and bloody. All four combatants got caught in the wire at one point. Johnny Grunge had Terry stuck in it and raked the wire across his forehead. He kicked him until Terry fell to the arena floor.

Dory got some revenge as he took on both Grunge and Rocco Rock outside the ring. Terry also got into it, flinging a chair at Rock's head.

Both teams later bashed each other with a trash can and Grunge attacked Dory with wire cutters. The most unforgettable moment came when Terry encouraged the fans at ringside to throw chairs into the ring. Within a minute, dozens of chairs, as well as a meat tenderizer and a frying pan, were in the ring.

*(Continued on page 57)*

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# YOU ASKED US

Here's the monthly feature that YOU get to write! It's your chance to have a top wrestler answer YOUR questions! Only the best questions will be answered, so put on your thinking caps and come up with some good ones! Address your questions—and who you would like to have answer them—to:

**YOU ASKED US**, c/o THE WRESTLER,  
Box 956, Ft. Washington, PA 19034.

**Q:** "My question is for Ric Flair: What is your plan for regaining the WCW World title from Ric Flair? Are you afraid of the power of 'Hulkamania'?"—Craig Dunne, Shaker Heights, OH

**A:** "I'll answer the second part of your ridiculous question first," said Flair. "The 'Nature Boy' is afraid of no one, least of all some force that Hogan has created in his own mind. My plan is to destroy 'Hulkamania' once and for all. And that, my friend, is not going to be as difficult as some people think. I have to give Hogan some credit. He came into WCW with momentum and found a way to win my belt. But me and Hogan are two different people. I always have a backup plan. When things get tough, I get tougher. Hogan has never seen me when I'm really angry, but that day is coming. When it does, he'll be no match for the 'Nature Boy.' You want to know my plan? I think you'll know it when you see me and Sherri hoisting the WCW belt over our heads while Hogan's broken body lies on the mat at our feet."

\*\*\*

**Q:** "I have question for Davey Boy Smith: Since you're the brother-in-law of Bret and Owen Hart, I was wondering whose side

you've taken in their feud."—Reggie Harris, Oxnard, CA

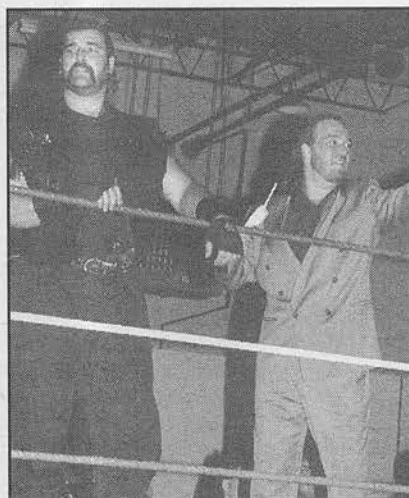
**A:** "The entire Hart family used to be so close, Reggie," the 'British Bulldog' said. "Everyone always looked out for each other and there were never any major problems. There's no question whose side I'm on in this: Bret's. It makes me sick to see what Owen and Jim Neidhart are doing to him and the family. The only thing Bret is guilty of is having a successful career. Owen and Neidhart are jealous of what Bret has accomplished on his own, without anyone's help. I think Bret has handled the whole situation with a lot of class. He's given Owen more than enough shots at the WWF title. Owen must be pretty frustrated if he's got to have Neidhart helping him out every time he's in trouble. I'd be happy to help Bret even the odds."

\*\*\*

**Q:** "I'd like to ask Paul E. Dangerously a question: Are there any wrestlers out there you're thinking about adding to your Dangerous Alliance in ECW?"—Frank Ward, Wayne, PA

**A:** "Nobody is a better judge of wrestling talent than me, Frank—no one!" replied Dangerously. "I've been all over the

world in search of men who have what it takes to survive in ECW, the federation where many great superstars are afraid to wrestle. I'm talking about men like Sabu, the most dangerous force in wrestling today. I'm talking about 911, a monster who stands close to seven feet tall and can end a man's career with a single one of his choke-slams. I like what I



Paul E. Dangerously (with 911) likes the makeup of his current Dangerous Alliance, but the ECW manager admits he's never satisfied and would like to make his stable even stronger.

have right now, Frank, but I'm never satisfied. I have the intelligence and the money necessary to get anyone I want under contract and my Dangerous Alliance is stronger than ever!"

\*\*\*

**Q:** "I have a question for Col. Robert Parker: Why aren't you accompanying Steve Austin to ringside anymore? He hardly ever wins unless you interfere."—Scott Raynes, Muskegon, MI

**A:** "By asking that ludicrous question, son, you are only revealing your own ignorance and stupidity," said Parker. "You obviously underestimate the power of my Stud Stable. That, son, is a mistake many fools have made. Dustin Rhodes made that mistake and now

(Continued on page 58)

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## THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR (pictured)

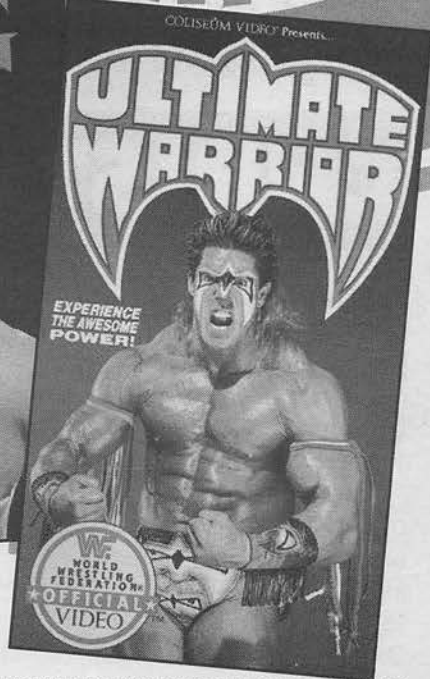
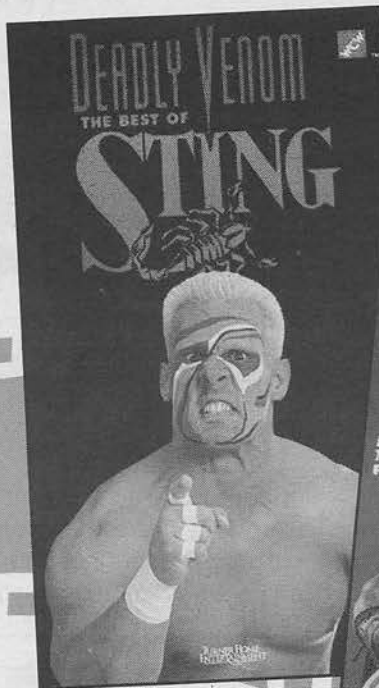
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# INTRODUCING CHRISTOPHER DANIELS

By Dave Lenker

CHRISTOPHER DANIELS could hardly wait to get his hands on a copy of the December 1993 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*.

Inside that magazine, of course, was the third-annual "PWI 500," a listing of the top 500 wrestlers in North America. Daniels, who made his debut a few months earlier, didn't expect to see his name in the rankings. His primary interest wasn't in who was number one, or even who came in at 500.

Daniels had his own agenda.

He went through the list very quickly, making a rough count of how many of the ranked wrestlers weighed 220 pounds or less.

"It was amazing," he recalled. "I don't think fans realize how many great light heavyweights there are. I must have counted 60 wrestlers under 220 pounds. And there must have been at least that many between

220 and 230!"

That kind of news can be encouraging to a wrestler who weighs a mere 207 pounds ... not that Daniels needed encouragement. A lifelong wrestling fan,

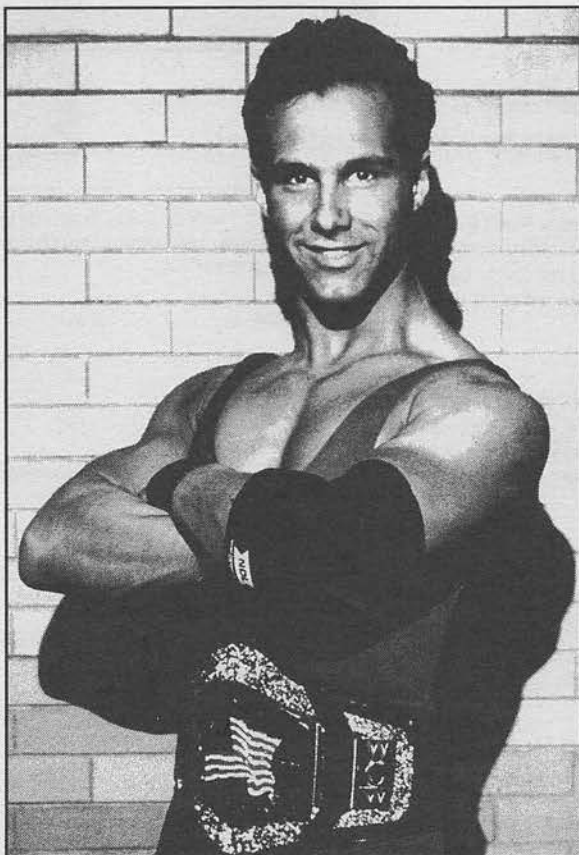
he enrolled in the Windy City Professional Wrestling School in January 1993, where he was trained by Windy City President and former wrestler Sam DeCero, Mike Anthony, and Kevin Quinn.

"When I was growing up, the wrestlers who were all over television were Hulk Hogan, Dusty Rhodes, and The Road Warriors—all guys who weighed 300 pounds and more," Daniels said. "Then Global and WCW introduced light heavyweight titles and I thought maybe there was a future for me in this sport. I consider myself a fast learner and I guess everything just fell into place."

Three months after he enrolled in the school, he was deemed ready to start his mat career. Promoters signed him to wrestle in a tag team match with Titan against the Manson brothers. He was confident that his team would triumph.

It didn't. Daniels was pinned several minutes into the bout.

"I was pretty down after that happened," he said.



While Christopher Daniels has been wrestling for only little more than a year, in that time he has dominated the Windy City Wrestling lightweight scene.

**2 Cold Scorpio, The Kid, and Brian Pillman are just a few of the wrestlers who proved a champion can weigh less than 230 pounds. Inspired by them, Windy City's Christopher Daniels is aiming to become the next great light heavyweight**

"Everything happened so fast. I had a plan for how I was going to wear down those Manson brothers, but it fell apart. Before I could fight back, they had me pinned."

Daniels' depression didn't last, because he couldn't afford to let it. He already had inexperience and a lack of size working against him. If he lost faith in his own abilities, he wouldn't stand a chance.

What he needed was to set goals for himself. He talked to promoters ... and talked ... and talked. He knew Windy City's big "Battle Of The Belts" card was only weeks away and convinced matchmakers that he could give lightweight champion Trevor Blanchard the challenge of his life.

A few of those promoters laughed when they first heard his proposal, but when they realized he wasn't joking, they decided to give him his title shot.

On May 22, 1993, at Chicago's International Amphitheatre, Christopher Daniels dazzled Blanchard—and the fans—with his aerial moves and pulled off one of the biggest upsets in Windy City Wrestling history by pinning Blanchard.

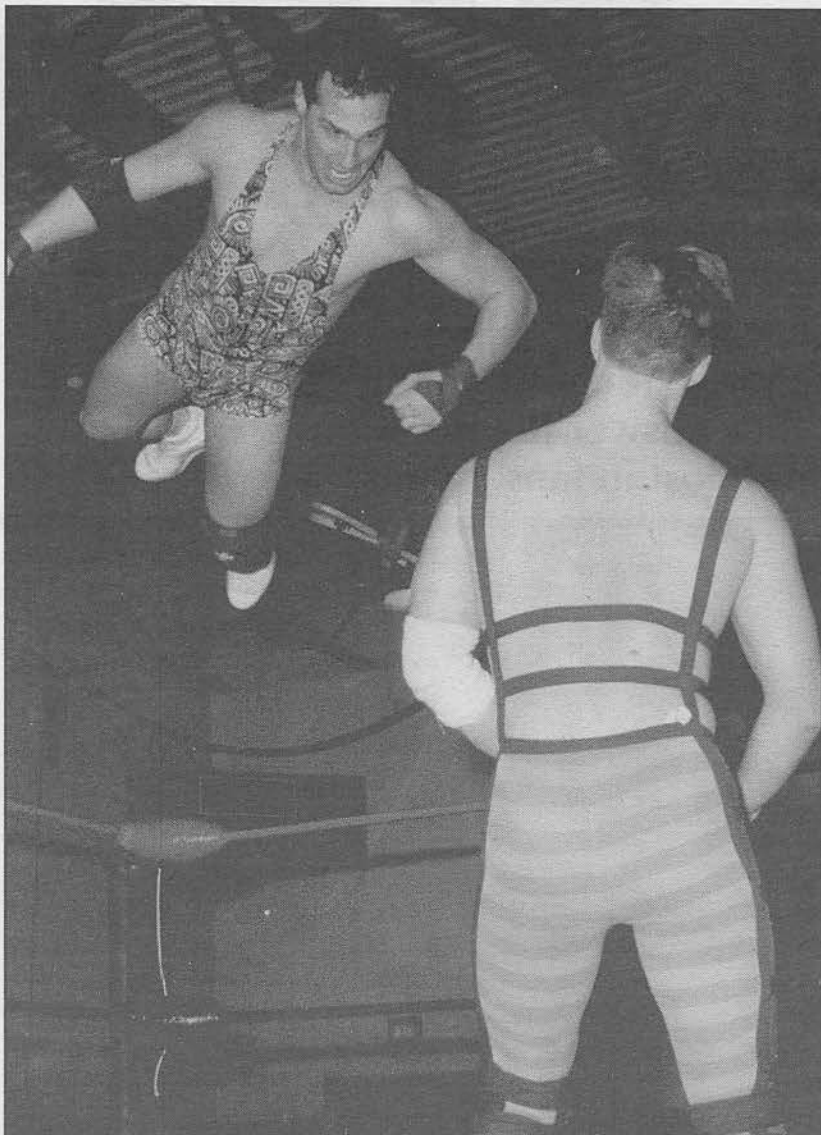
"I was ecstatic," said Daniels. "I can't begin to describe what I felt when they handed me that gold belt and announced me as the new lightweight champion. I never dreamed I'd accomplish something like that after only wrestling pro for a month. You should have heard some of the things Blanchard said after I beat him. He said it was a fluke and called me every name in the book. It didn't bother me, though, because I had the belt and he didn't."

The win was no fluke. More

than a year has passed and Daniels still has the belt strapped around his waist. He has successfully defended it against wrestlers such as Steven Bishop, Ace Steele, Danny Dominion, and others, and has done amaz-

even 400 pounds," he explained. "I'll put my skills up against anyone's!"

Now that he's proven himself in Windy City, Daniels might branch out and showcase his skills in other federations. He



Like most great lighter-weight wrestlers, Daniels has superb aerial ability. But he's enough of a well-rounded competitor to hold his own against heavier foes.

ingly well against heavier opponents.

"I tell everyone all the time that it doesn't matter if I'm wrestling someone who weighs 200 pounds, 300 pounds, or

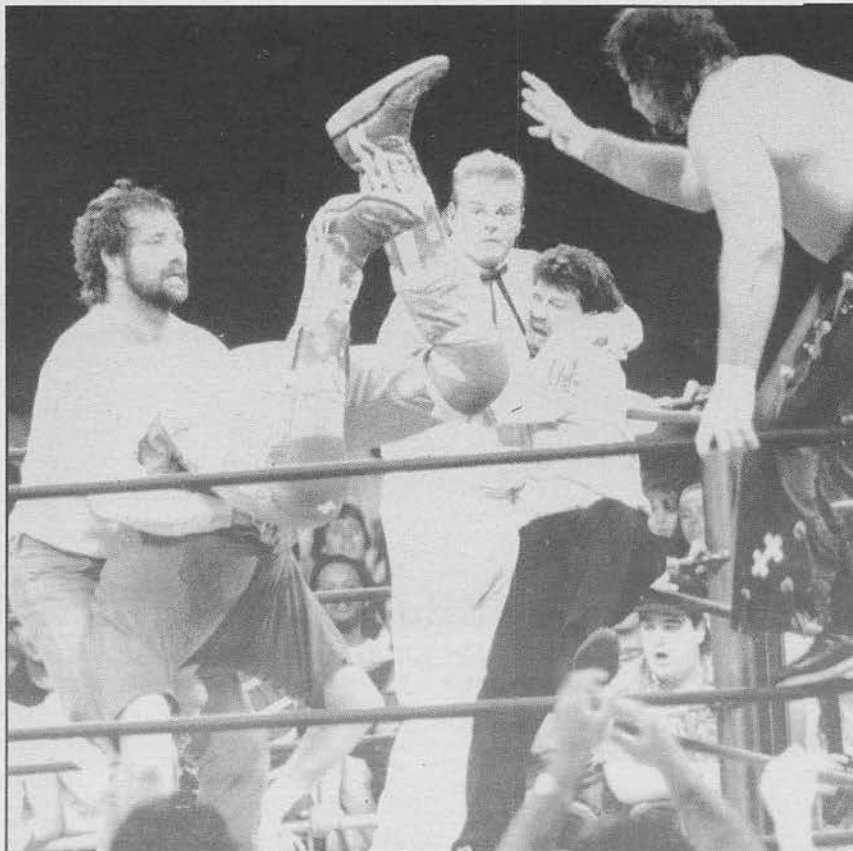
also has at least one other goal.

"By the time that 1995 'PWI 500' comes out, I'll have been wrestling for a few years," he said. "I expect to see *my* name in that issue!" □



# Q & A

Each month, *The Wrestler* will present a "Question and Answer" forum with an important figure in the wrestling world. It is your chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars as they answer the questions uppermost in fans' minds

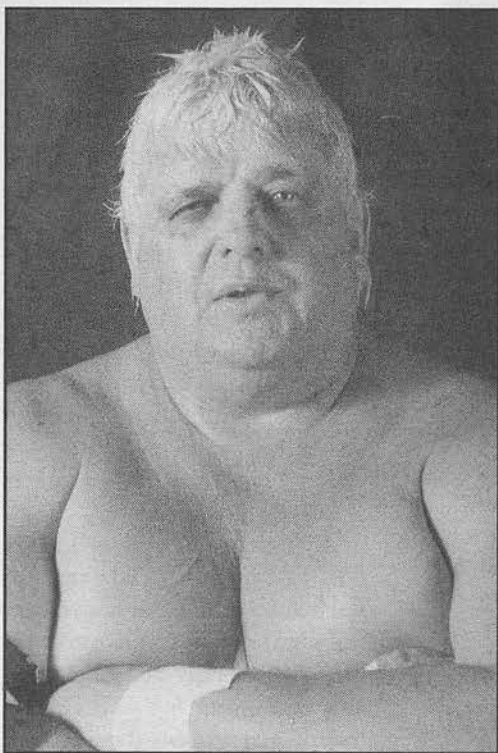


Need a reason why Dusty Rhodes is returning to wrestling? Here's why—to help his son. Dustin Rhodes has regularly been assaulted by the likes of Bunkhouse Buck and Terry Funk, and Dusty thinks it's time to even the score.

**Q:** How does it feel to return to active competition?

**A:** Whoa, whoa, hold your horses there, son. You make it sound like the "American Dream" is about to challenge ol' Hulk Hogan for the WCW World title. Officially, I still consider myself retired, you understand. I've come back for a very special reason, and that is to help out my boy, Dustin. Now normally Dustin doesn't need any help from no one. The young man is one of the toughest, smartest wrestlers in the business. But there comes a time when family has to stick up for family, and a time when the odds have to be evened. Terry Funk, Arnie Anderson, and that Bunkhouse Buck fellow against my boy. Well, son, that just ain't right. I knew it was obviously time for me to get involved.

**Q:** Dustin has plenty of allies. Why can't they help him?



# DUSTY RHODES

**D**USTY RHODES INSISTS that when he retired from active competition several years ago, he intended to make that retirement stick. He insists he believed that after a brilliant career, it was finally time for him to hang up the tights. Even in his role as a goodwill ambassador for WCW, Rhodes heard the taunts of those who wanted to goad him back in the ring, but he very carefully chose to stay above the fray.

Last fall, however, an old rival, The Assassin, infuriated Dusty enough to get him involved. Rhodes was in son Dustin's corner when he battled Paul Orndorff, who was seconded by Assassin, at Clash of the Champions. After the bout, Dusty and Assassin brawled, but Dusty quickly settled back into retirement.

When Terry Funk returned to WCW in 1994, he became the latest to get Dusty riled up. Rhodes kept his distance, until Dustin was double-crossed by Arn Anderson, who turned out to be Funk's cohort, at Bash at the Beach. Now it looks as though the elder Rhodes is willing to help out his son in the ring on a more permanent basis. Senior Writer Andy Rodriguez spoke with the "American Dream" at his home on the outskirts of Atlanta.

**A:** Well, they could, but they all have their own situations, if you will. Men like Sting and Rick Steamboat have been there for Dustin—for me, too—many, many times over the years. I believe that this time, however, Dustin is best served by his old papa right beside him.

**Q:** Do Funk's taunts have anything to do with that?

**A:** Listen, Terry Funk talks a lot of trash, a lot of nonsense about how he isn't done with me yet. Everybody who's followed me over the years knows damn well I got the best of Terry Funk and his brother, Dory, too. Still, I will admit Terry does annoy me, like a pesky old mosquito. A mosquito like that you gotta swat so he don't sting you no more. That's what I intend to do to Funk if he don't back off soon.

**Q:** Have you ever considered that you're falling into Funk's trap?

**A:** How's he gonna trap me?

What's he gonna do—run me out of wrestling? Son, I'm already retired, remember? I don't care how many tricks that old coyote has up his sleeve. Nothing is gonna stop me from doing what's right by my boy. Any risk is worth that.

**Q:** You've also had a lot of run-ins over the years with Arn Anderson.

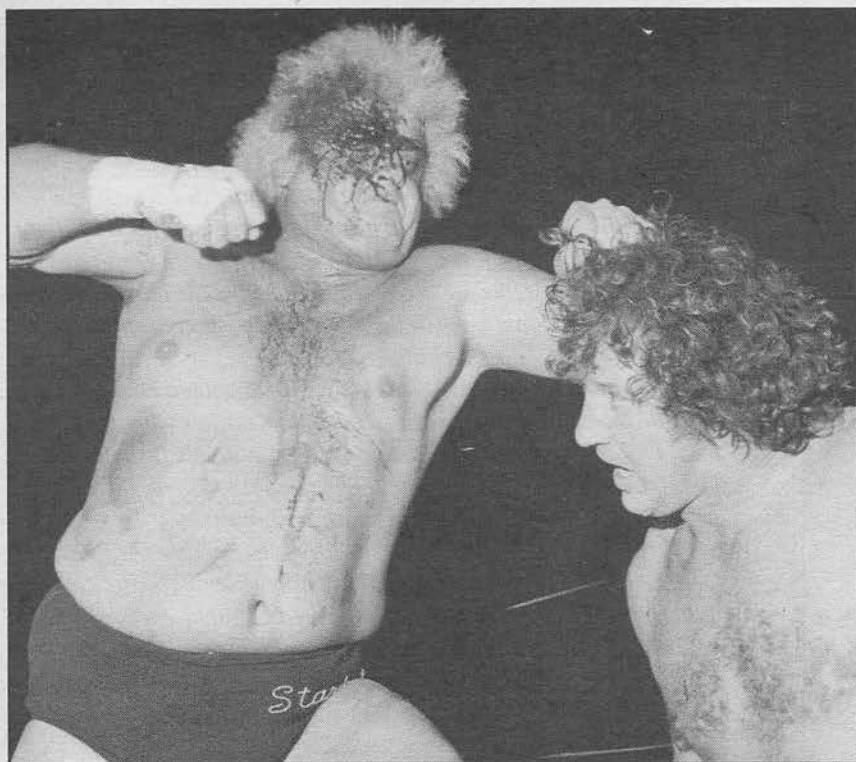
**A:** Now you're talking about one of The Four Horsemen. That's right, I still call Anderson a Horseman. Maybe the Horsemen don't exist in name, but they're still with us in spirit. Arn is tough as nails, but he's got the morals of a rattlesnake, you know what I'm saying? I wasn't surprised in the least what he did to Dustin at the Bash. I warned Dustin that Arn was nothing but bad news, but sometimes my boy insists on learning things the hard way. He told me he wasn't gonna be friends with Arn; he was just

gonna ask him to help get some revenge. I said all Arn needs is one match to prove what a dirty dog he is. Sadly, I was right.

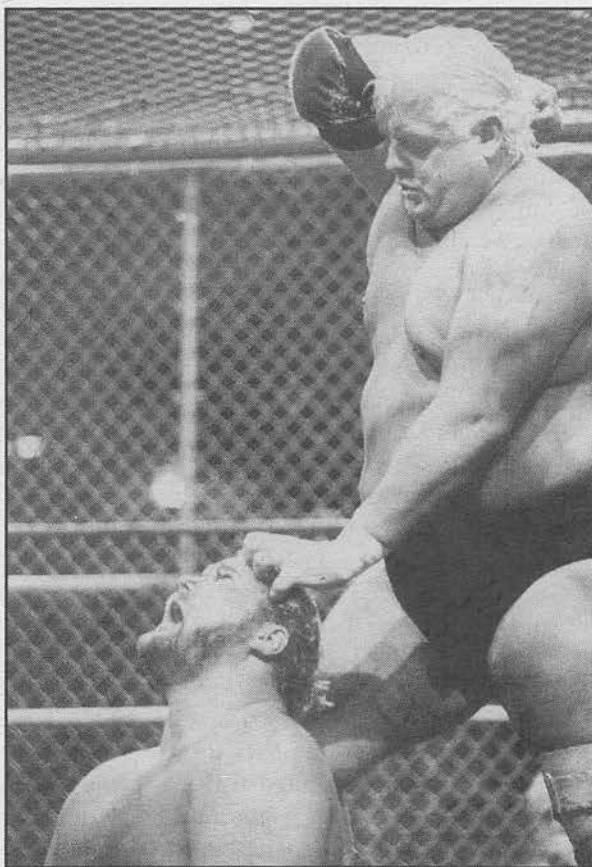
**Q:** How do you deal with Anderson and Funk's partner, Bunkhouse Buck? In this space a couple of months ago, he claimed that several years ago you mistook him for a gym attendant, then insulted him at a restaurant. He says that's why he really despises you and Dustin.

**A:** Yeah, I read that. I don't know what that boy is talking about. I certainly don't remember him. I don't think Dustin does, either, but we surely know who he is now and that's too bad for him. The kid thinks he's a big deal 'cause he's hooked up with people like Funk and Arn. He thinks he's on his way up, but he's just headed for a fall, courtesy of the Rhodes family. After me and Dustin get through with him, he'll truly have a reason to hate us.





Dusty's rivalry with Funk began long before Dustin began wrestling. Dusty has said Funk is annoying, "like a pesky old mosquito."



There's no love lost between Dusty and Arn Anderson either. They've been foes for years, and things only intensified when Anderson turned against Dustin while serving as his tag team partner at Bash at the Beach.

- Q:** You sound very confident for a man who hasn't wrestled in years. How have you been preparing for your bouts?
- A:** You make the mistake of letting the look of this old body fool you. Over the years so many people have made the error of underestimating the "American Dream" Dusty Rhodes. I keep myself in fine shape. People wanna laugh at that, but believe me, it's true. I'm ready to take on Funk and that whole crew of his.
- Q:** They have a formidable manager in Col. Robert Parker.
- A:** Every manager I've ever known has been highly overrated, Parker included. Managers are only good for sticking their noses where they don't belong. I can't imagine me and Dustin having any trouble dealing with Parker. In fact, I hope he tries to interfere. I wanna see the look on his face after ol' Dusty belly-bumps him into the sixth row. Or maybe I'll hit him with one of my bionic elbowsmashes. Yeah, that sounds good. What I'm sayin' is that Col. Robert Parker would do wise to stay as far away from the ring as possible.
- Q:** How far are you willing to take this feud?
- A:** You mean, how long do I think it'll last?
- Q:** That, and how much are you willing to put into it?
- A:** Naturally, I intend for Dustin and me to settle this thing as quickly as possible. And as far as my effort, Dustin knows I'm throwing my whole heart and soul into this. I couldn't do anything less. We both have a lot riding on how this turns out. For the people who still don't believe, I have to show them the "Dream" continues to live on, even though he may be gettin' a little rusty and creaky. For Dustin, I have to help him get past this and get on with his

career. He's gonna be the World champion someday. I know it. Look at all he's done already. He's got the chance to be greater than his daddy, to be one of the best ever. This is just a minor distraction, if you will. Dustin will come out of this stronger than ever.

**Q:** It seems that just as Dustin has emerged from your shadow, he's being overshadowed again by his famous dad.

**A:** I know it was tough on Dustin. He had to show everybody he got to where he was because he was good, not because he was the son of the "American Dream." For a lot of years he fought that war, and he finally won it. There are kids out there now who know me as "Dustin's father." You don't know how good that makes me feel. See, the difference now is I'm at Dustin's side 'cause I want to be there, not because I have to. I know he could get this done with a whole number of folks. Me and him, though, want to do this together. We're gonna prove to Funk and Anderson and every bad guy in WCW that you don't mess with the Rhodes family.

**Q:** Last year it looked like you and The Assassin would start a major feud, but it lost steam pretty quickly.

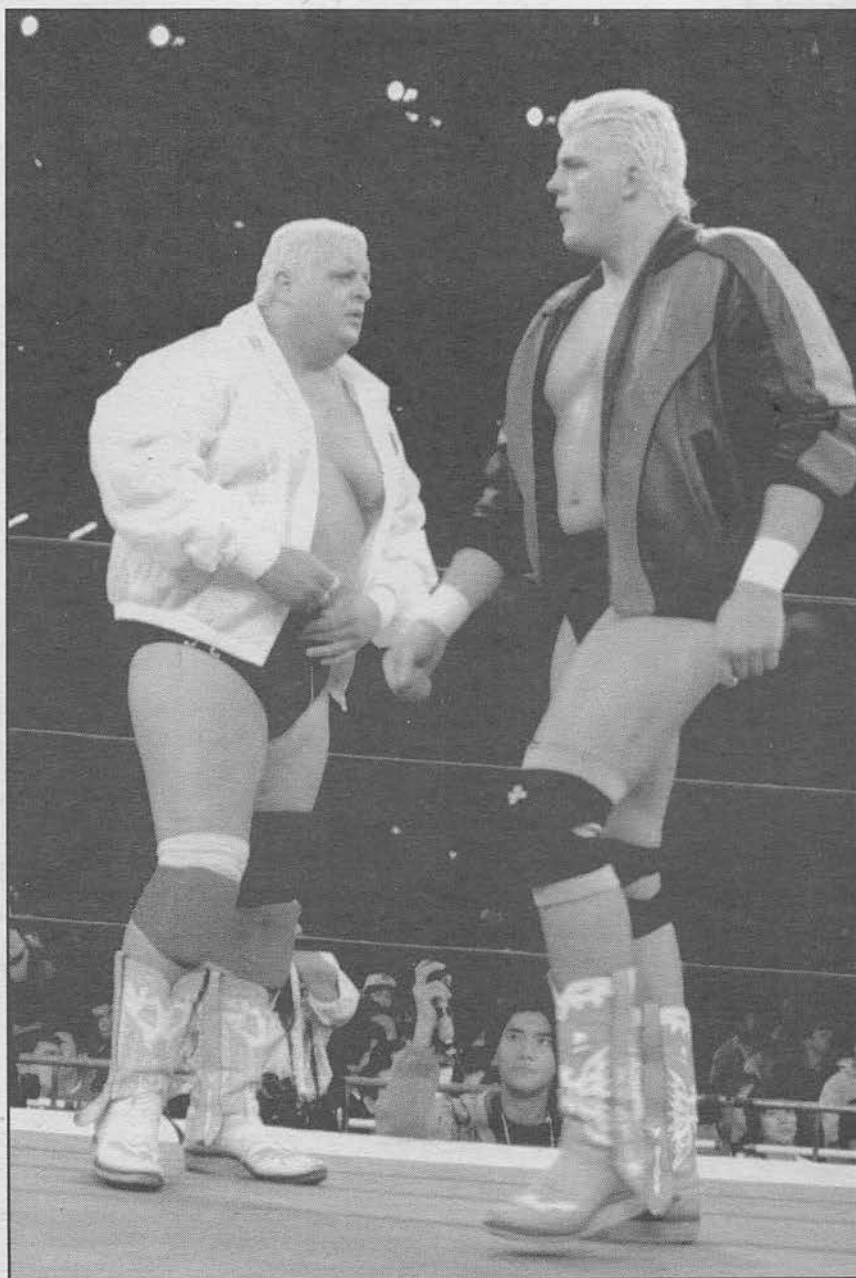
**A:** Yes, it did. That's because I proved to Assassin very quickly what an unwise decision he had made in trying to mess with me. Assassin was never too bright, you understand, but he got the point fast enough. People like Funk and Anderson, on the other hand, think they're smart. They think they got it all figured out. This is why it's gonna be so sweet when me and Dustin get our hands raised. And I want to make a point now I don't think I've made. I don't intend to help Dustin in the ring and leave it at that. I'm

sure there'll be times he wants me to step back and not wrestle. That's okay by me. Other times he might need me as a second. All right. Any way he needs me, I'll be there for him.

**Q:** Looking past this feud, will we ever see you back in the ring full-time, competing for your own glory?

**A:** Son, I don't close the door on anything. You can never say never. But I am dead serious

when I say I'm back for my boy's sake. Nothing else matters. I wish I could sit back and just enjoy watching Dustin compete, but that isn't how it's worked out. We all gotta play the hand we're dealt. At this time, this is the hand I've been dealt, and I plan to play it to the fullest. Enjoy it while you can, because maybe the "American Dream" won't come this way again. □

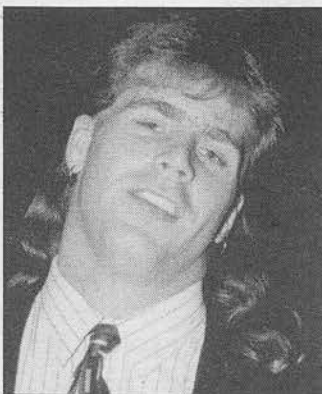


For a long time, Dustin wrestled in Dusty's shadow. But the son has progressed to the point where some fans refer to Dusty as "Dustin's father." Pop's proud of it.



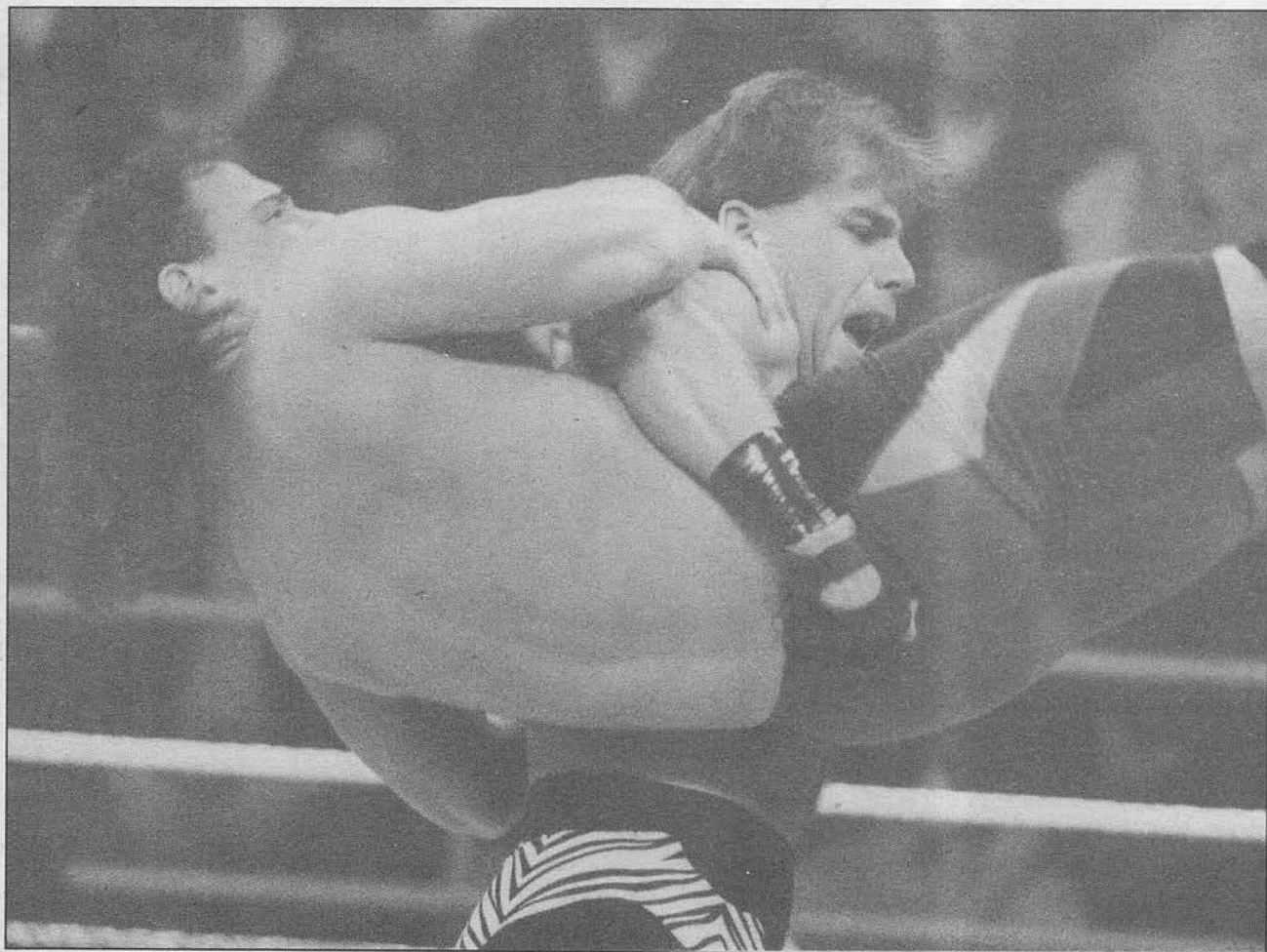
THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES

**RAY**



**SHAWN  
MICHAELS**

Each month  
**THE WRESTLER'S** panel of experts  
will offer candid opinions of one  
of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and-coming  
youngster or an established superstar in his own right,  
our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal



Despite his arrogance, Shawn Michaels (dominating Dwight Broomall) has become one of the WWF's most respected competitors in the sport today.



### CAPT. LOU ALBANO

"There are a lot of times when I just can't stand to watch Shawn Michaels wrestle. This guy is so talented it's scary, but he takes shortcuts. A grab of the tights here, a shot below the belt there—I tell you, Michaels doesn't need to do that kind of stuff. He has the ability, the agility, and the mobility to beat anyone in the world. He wastes so much time admiring himself. The man is fantastic now, but the Captain says he could be even better."

*Capt. Lou Albano has led 13 tag teams—most recently The Headshrinkers—to a record 17 WWF World tag team titles.*



### FABULOUS MOOLAH

"Good-looking, cocky, talented—all three apply to Shawn Michaels. And honey, don't underestimate the importance of that attitude. He knows just what it takes to get an opponent angry. He knows how to knock a guy off his game plan and then let his fantastic natural ability take over. He also knows how to manipulate and distract referees so he can get that extra cheap shot in. He's ready to take the next step and go after the WWF World title right now."

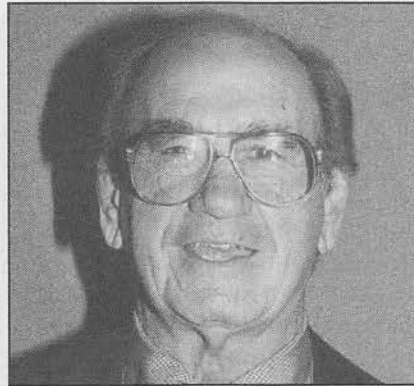
*Fabulous Moolah, the finest woman wrestler in history, held the World title for 28 years. She trains wrestlers in Columbia, South Carolina.*



### KILLER KOWALSKI

"You have to admire a wrestler like Michaels. What impressed me most was how easily he made the transition from great tag team wrestler to great singles wrestler. When he teamed with Marty Jannetty, they were an outstanding team, but Shawn wanted the glory all to himself. Who could blame him? It didn't take long before he set his sights on the Intercontinental title. He's won that twice, but I really don't think we've seen the best of Michaels yet."

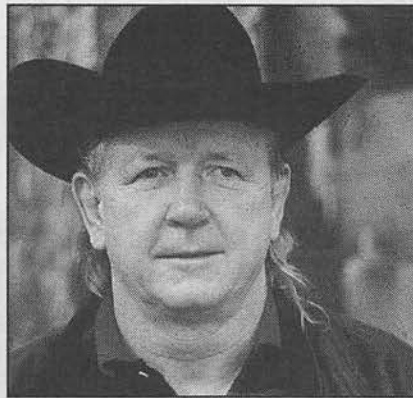
*Killer Kowalski, one of the most sadistic rule-breakers in the sport's history, runs a wrestling school in Reading, Massachusetts.*



### LOU THESZ

"Michaels has an ego problem that concerns me. He acts like he can't be beaten. Confidence is a wonderful thing, but overconfidence can be dangerous. Michaels thinks he has no equal in the ring. When you're that arrogant, you're going to make some enemies. I'm not saying he should be everybody's friend, but it doesn't hurt to have allies. I just can't see the Michaels-Diesel alliance lasting. And if they do feud, it could be destructive to both men."

*Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-around wrestler ever.*



### DORY FUNK JR.

"It worries me a little to see a guy like Michaels taking a break from competing. As good as Michaels is, let's remember that he isn't very big by wrestling standards. In most matches, he has to compensate for his lack of size with speed and quickness. And he usually has no problem doing that. By taking a rest, he runs the risk of getting lazy and out of shape. If he wants to be among the best wrestlers of his era, he can't afford too many layoffs."

*Dory Funk Jr. held the NWA World championship from 1969 to 1973. He still wrestles from time to time.*



### GORDON SOLIE

"I've heard the comparison before, but it bears repeating. Michaels reminds me of a young Ric Flair. The more the fans boo him, the better he gets. As far as talent and endurance go, he is close to where Flair was at his age. I think he needs to upgrade his repertoire of moves, however. I'm also not sure he has Flair's determination yet. Flair, like Michaels, is a great showman, but what fuels Flair is his desire to be the best. Michaels has to find that fire."

*Gordon Solie has expertly analyzed pro wrestling on television for 35 years. He periodically appears on WCW broadcasts.*



# WHY LUGER TURNING BAD WOULD BE GOOD FOR THE WWF

**After nearly two years  
in the WWF,  
Lex Luger has yet to  
capitalize on his ability  
and potential.  
Perhaps a shift to  
rulebreaking would  
revitalize both him  
and the federation**

**By Eddie Ellner**

**A** FAMOUS HISTORIAN once said, "the only thing we learn from history is that we never learn anything from history," and nowhere is that line more applicable than in the curious case of Lex Luger.

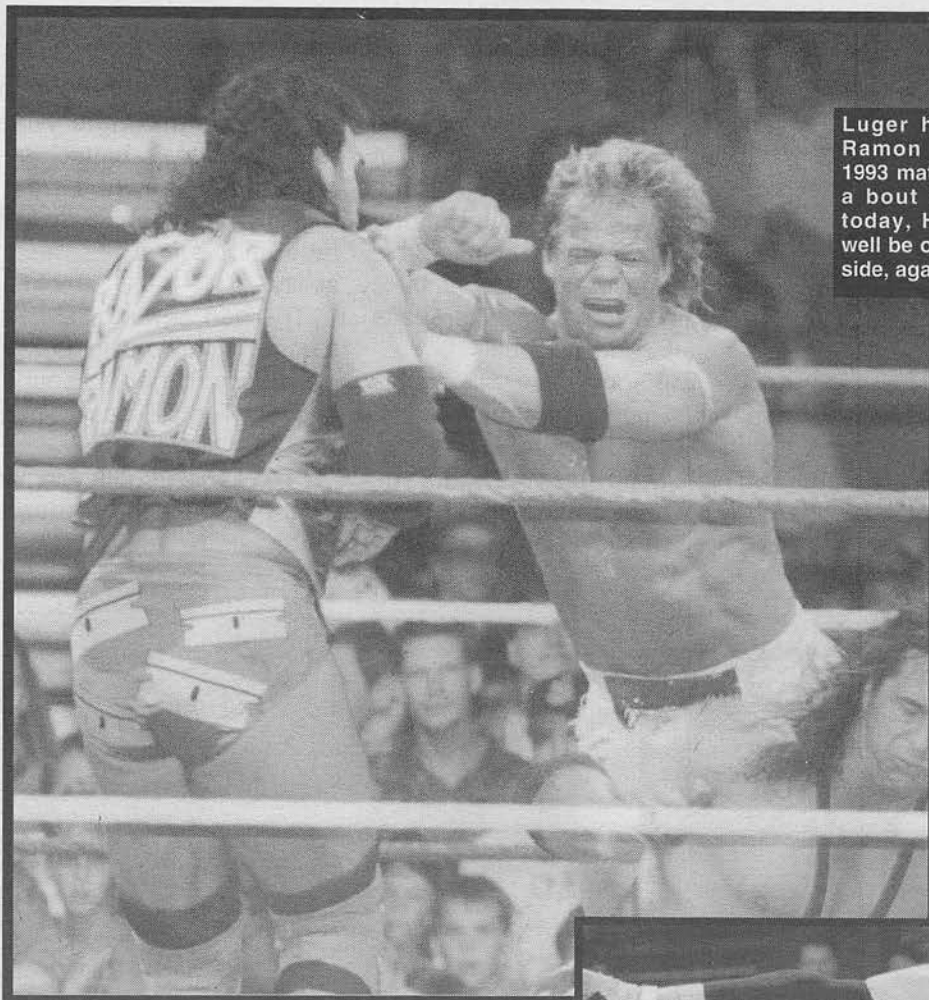
You remember Lex Luger, don't you? The wrestler who, during his rookie campaign, considered changing his first name to "Next," as in next mega superstar. The wrestler from whose WCW press clippings and interview clips you assumed captured a dozen major titles, instead of the one lonely world championship he did. The wrestler who upon his arrival in the WWF considered adding a middle name of MOWIE, as in Most Overwhelming Wrestler In Eternity.

You get the idea, right? If Luger had a theme song, it would be "All

Revved Up With Nowhere To Go." Nearly a decade after his rookie year, we are still waiting for Luger to catch up to his potential. Perhaps Luger's most potent weapon is his confidence—and his uncanny ability to instill in the media and his fan base the same confidence—that just around the corner is the kingdom he will soon come to rule.

In pursuit of his crown, Luger has experimented with more personalities than Sybil. He has been a vicious rulesmasher, a working-class hero, a faithful and faithless teammate, a super patriot ... the list goes on.

His latest incarnation, as the flag-waving, pie-eating American superhero is his least impressive. "Luger's Sgt. Slaughter impersonation never worked in the WWF," says federation expert Thomas



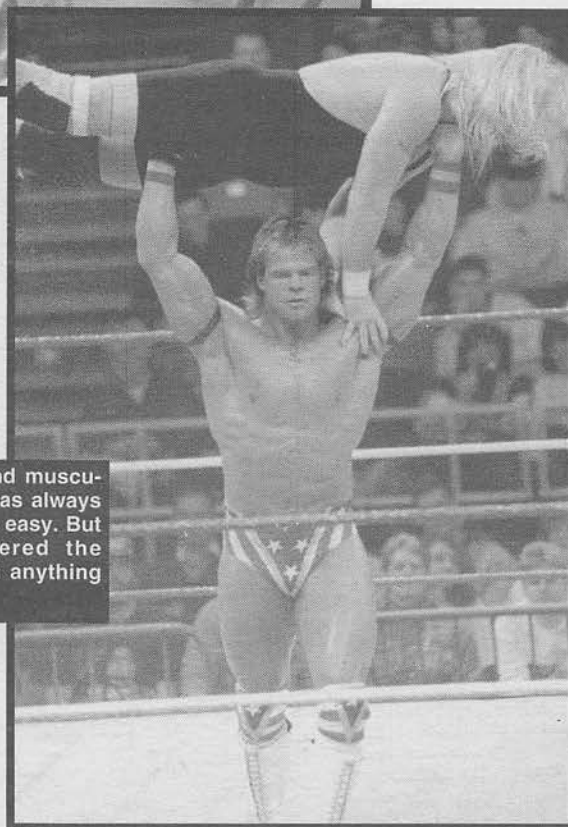
Luger hits Razor Ramon during a 1993 match. If such a bout happened today, Hart might well be on Ramon's side, against Luger.

Pilliard. "You can tell the fans never subscribed fully to his philosophy. There was something put on about it. Even when things went right, it didn't seem right."

Indeed it didn't. Luger's defense of the flag reached a high point July 4, 1993, when he body-slammed Yokozuna on the deck of the USS Intrepid. He followed this with an agonizingly dull feud against Norwegian henchman Ludvig Borga—a series of matches that many fans considered the worst feud of the year.

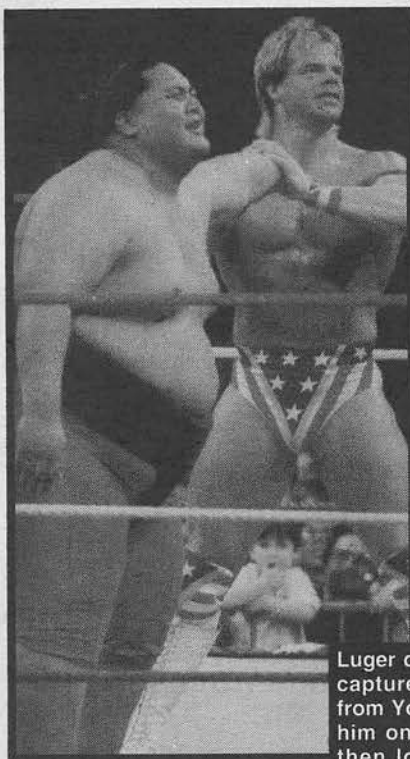
When Luger goes home and looks himself in the mirror (which he does often), he probably does not see a defender of America. He sees Lex Luger, frustrated superstar. At this point in his career he's willing to try anything to bring his career to the next level.

The good news is that Luger,



The talented and muscular Lex Luger has always made it look so easy. But since he entered the WWF, it's been anything but simple.





Luger could never quite capture the World title from Yokozuna. He beat him once by countout, then lost the rematch on a controversial disqualification.

according to very reliable sources, is about to forsake the apple pie and embrace his rulebreaking roots.

"He's very close," says one of his good friends. "He's very frustrated by the lack of title shots. He's always felt more comfortable as a rulebreaker, and now he feels the only way to get anywhere is to close ranks and kick butt."

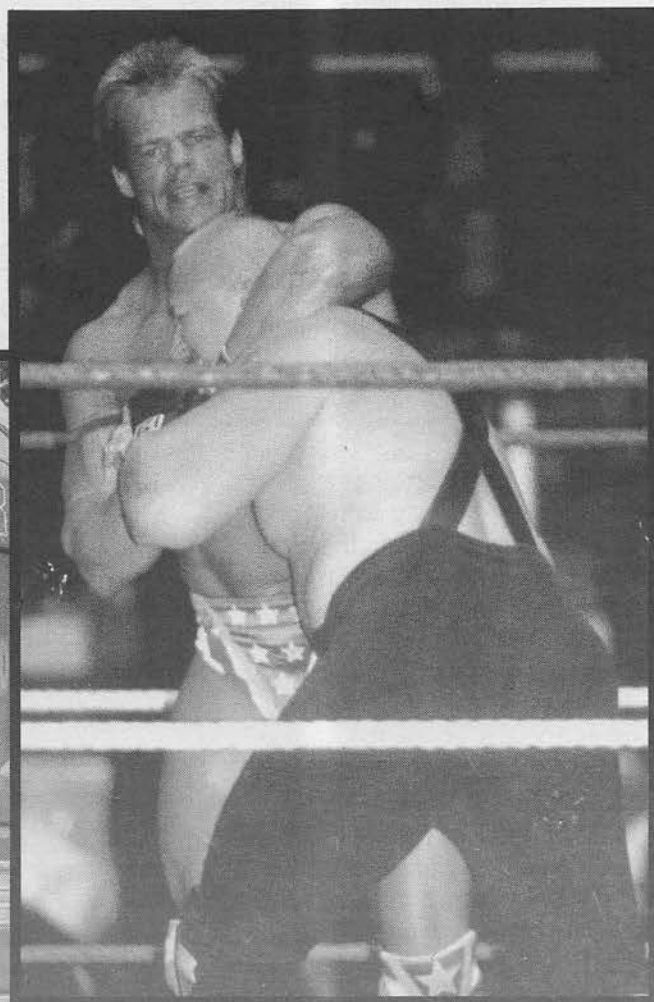
We will soon discover exactly what that means, if it means anything at all.

This is also good news for the WWF, which could use another

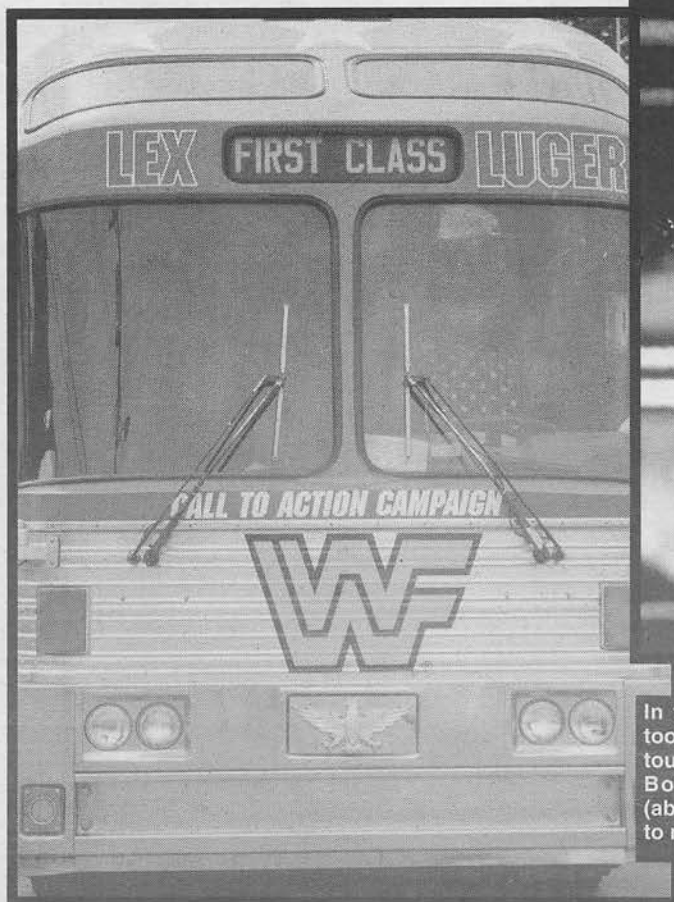
skilled rulebreaker. Shawn Michaels is excellent, but seems to be more wrapped up in assisting Diesel than making a World title run. Yokozuna's better days may be behind him, and Bam Bam Bigelow's had trouble reaching the federation's first tier despite his ability.

The bad news for Luger devotees is that according to even closer sources, Luger is about to yield and join Ted DiBiase's Thugs-For-Hire after all.

"Ted DiBiase gets things done," said this particular source who



In the summer of 1993, Luger took a patriotic stand and a bus tour (left). He dominated Ludvig Borga in a series of bouts (above), but that eventually led to nowhere.



insists on anonymity. "And Luger wants things done. Let's just say they've been talking."

The same feverish excitement attends these talks as they did eight years ago, when Luger was being courted by the infamous Four Horsemen. For wrestling fans with short memories, Luger's stint in that nefarious organization did not end well.

At the time, Luger was widely quoted as saying it was the first and last time he'd ever join a stable of wrestlers. "I'm my own master," he said. "I can't conform to other people's agendas."

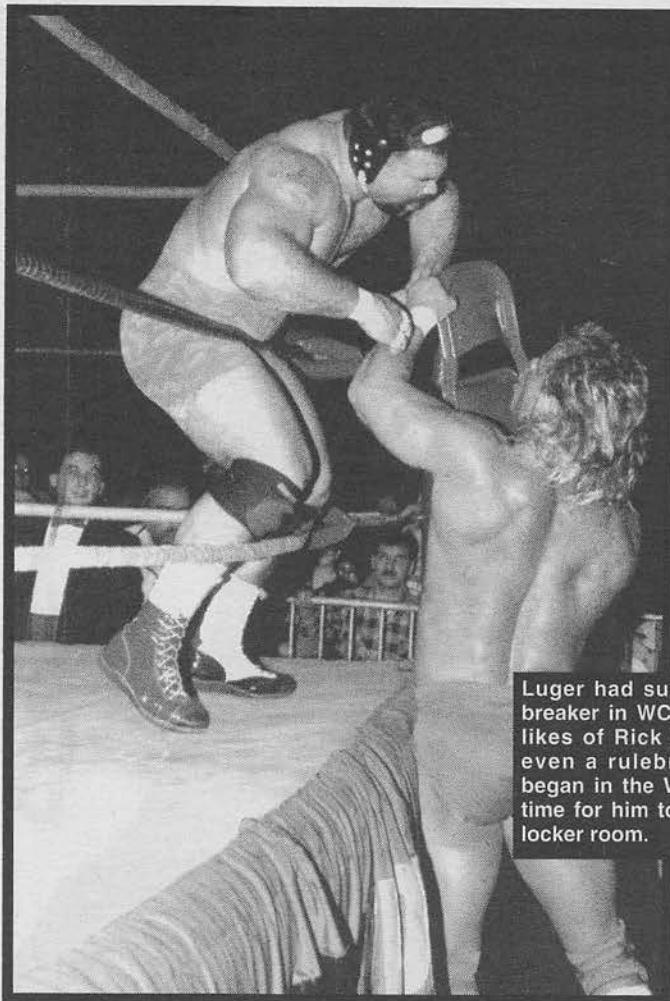
"Luger does not operate well in an organization," says his first trainer, Hiro Matsuda. "He needs star recognition. You can't be the 'Total Package' in a roomful of people."

Yet here he is, just a signature away from calling Nikolai Volkoff and Bigelow stablemates. While wrestling experts think Luger turning rulebreaker is a sound career move, not one of them would endorse his joining DiBiase.

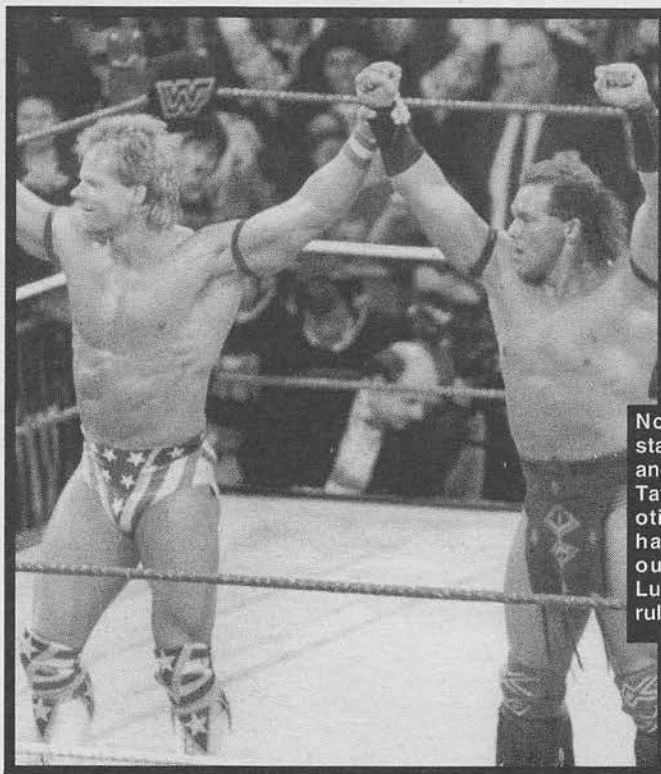
"Bad decision, very bad decision," said former WWF manager Johnny Valiant. "DiBiase will squeeze Luger dry and throw him out with yesterday's garbage. Luger needs someone interested in him as a person, not as another commodity. He needs a fan to manage him."

Luger's career pattern has been to have no discernible pattern, as if he trusted his prodigious skills to take care of everything on their own. "I realize I need guidance," he said years ago, after losing his only world championship (in WCW). "When I try to please other people, the fans, management, that's when I get in trouble."

At this point in his career Luger should take the giant chip off his shoulder and use it as a foreign object. If he does that, watch for bad things to happen to his opponents, and good things to happen, finally, to Lex Luger. □

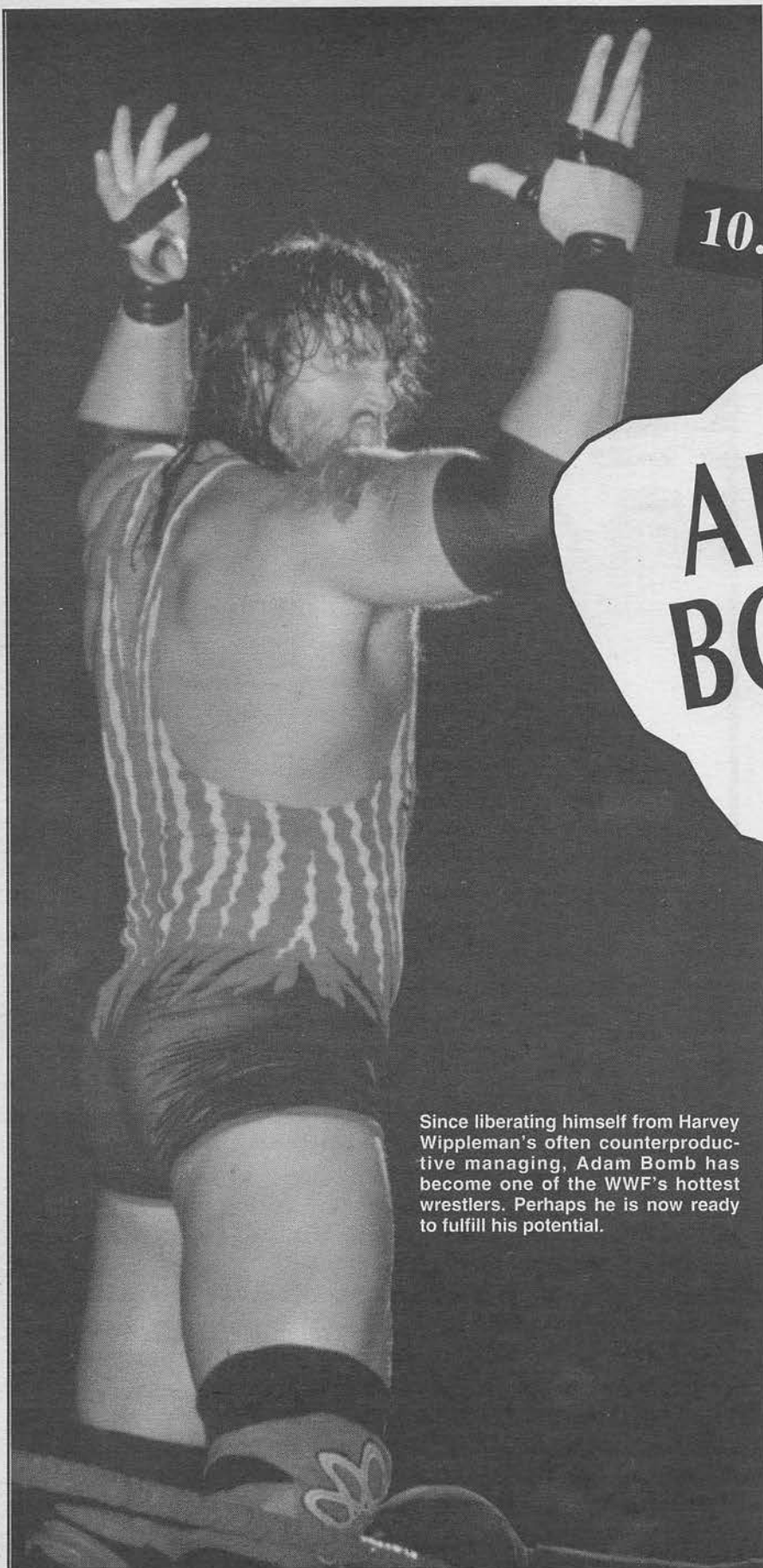


Luger had success as a rule-breaker in WCW, taking on the likes of Rick Steiner. He was even a rulebreaker when he began in the WWF. It might be time for him to go back to that locker room.



Not long ago, the star-spangled Luger and Native American Tatanka were a patriotic duo. Now they have had a falling out, amid rumors Luger may return to rulebreaking.





10... 9... 8... 7...

# ADAM BOMB'S

Since liberating himself from Harvey Wippleman's often counterproductive managing, Adam Bomb has become one of the WWF's hottest wrestlers. Perhaps he is now ready to fulfill his potential.

Rid of his worst nightmare—manager Harvey Wippleman—super muscleman Adam Bomb is ready to reach his great potential, proving once again that it's never too late for a powerhouse to get back on the right track

# EXPLODING

## WITH HIS NEW ATTITUDE

By Dave Rosenbaum

**H**ARVEY WIPPLEMAN HAS this incredible power to make a man do stupid things. Usually, his men. He also has this strange gift for making things disappear. Like careers.

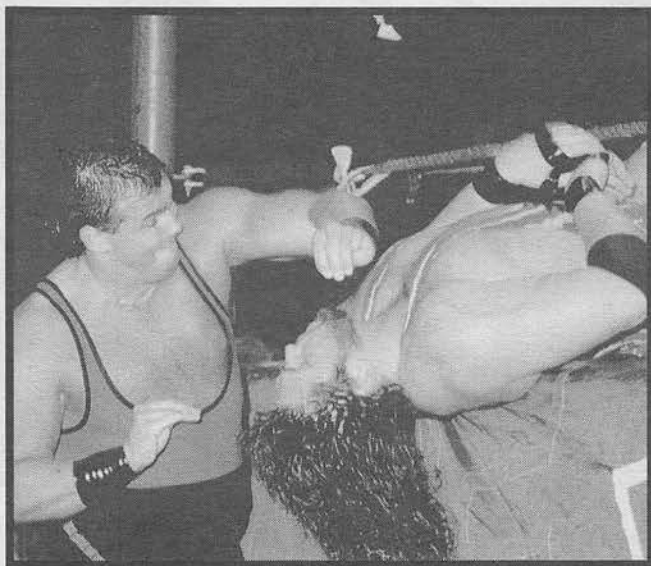
Anyone who saw what Wippleman did for (or make that to) Big Bully Busick and Sid Vicious and Giant Gonzales can testify to Wippleman's talent for making nothing out of something. Could he do the same with Adam Bomb? Yes, indeed, he could!

The worst manager in wrestling history took one of the hottest rising young talents in wrestling today and turned him into a bust in less than six months. It was an incredible performance, even by Wippleman's lofty standards for disaster. Wippleman's so bad, Michael Jordan would lose a one-on-one basketball game to Benoit Benjamin if Wippleman was his manager.

Fortunately, Wippleman's so bad that his men quickly catch on to the havoc he's wreaking on their careers. Before long, Busick and Vicious and Gonzales knew they had to free themselves from Harvey's sphere of influence.

Adam Bomb learned the same lesson. And he learned it the hard way.

The lesson was learned with an embarrassing



Bomb (clotheslining Pierre) may be one of those wrestlers who functions best without a manager. Suddenly popular with fans, he is hoping to soon contend for some sort of title.



Bomb has always been renowned for his outstanding power, but has had trouble putting that power to optimum use. He's been down for a while, but now appears ready to explode.

loss to Earthquake at WrestleMania X. This was a young musclemen's chance to shine in the spotlight, an unusual marquee match for a kid who's been in the WWF for such a short time.

Adam bombed on national pay-per-view TV. He made the mistake of helping Wippleman, who had been felled by ring announcer

Kwang sprayed a foreign substance—it wasn't spit!—out of his mouth, Kid ducked. The aforementioned substance ended up in Adam Bomb's face. He was an easy victim for Kid's pin.

What a joke it was when Wippleman announced at *WWF Monday Night Raw* in July that he no longer wanted to manage Bomb.

Did anyone hear tears of sorrow coming from Bomb's locker room? We didn't.

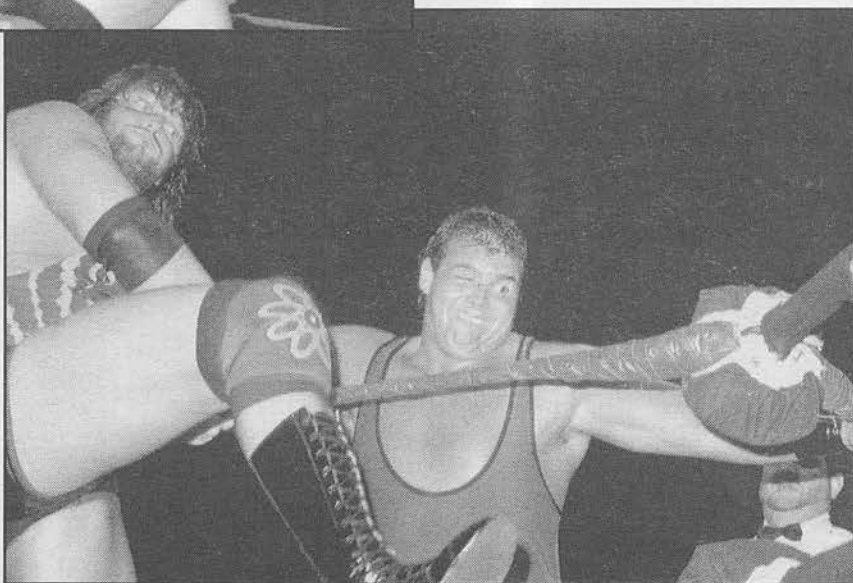
Shortly afterward, Bomb was counted out of his match against Yokozuna because Kwang and Wippleman stood at ringside and distracted him. That was the final step in the divorce proceedings and one could almost hear Bomb screaming, "Good riddance!"

Now get ready for the rise of Adam Bomb. This is a Bomb with two lives—first it imploded, now it will explode.

Relieved of the heavy baggage



Many wrestlers have struggled before reaching championship status, and Bomb could well be one of them. Now that he's found himself, his rise to prominence may echo Razor Ramon's.



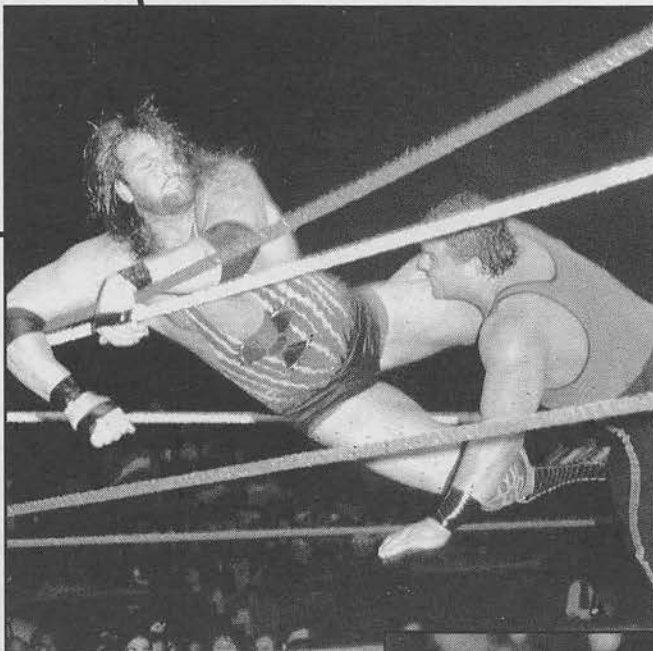
Howie Finkel. Just as suddenly, Adam Bomb was blindsided by Earthquake, who pinned him in only 32 seconds.

A King of the Ring qualifying match reinforced the lesson. Wippleman dispatched Kwang the Ninja to ringside for Adam Bomb's match against The Kid. When

that is Wippleman, Adam Bomb has gone out on his own. He is ready to conquer the world. At least he won't get any more bad advice.

"If you ask me, a wrestler like Bomb doesn't need a manager," said WWF commentator Jim Ross. "The last thing he needs is for

Bomb is powerful, but opponents who dismiss the rest of his own risk, as this kick against Pierre makes evident (right). At WrestleMania X, Bomb was humbled by Earthquake (below right), but it was evident that his manager was to blame.



somebody to restrict him. He just needs to go out there, kick butt, get some adrenaline flowing, and see what happens. The worst thing you could do is control a wrestler who's best when he's out-of-control."

Adam Bomb doesn't seem affected by his newfound popularity. The fans suddenly like him, but that's not going to change his style. A wrestler like Adam Bomb sets his own rules; it's the only way he can be effective.

For now, Adam Bomb's only goal is to destroy Kwang the Ninja and embarrass Whippleman. We say he shouldn't waste his time, since Whippleman constantly embarrasses himself. But that won't stop Adam Bomb. He must purge himself of the past before moving on to future conquests.

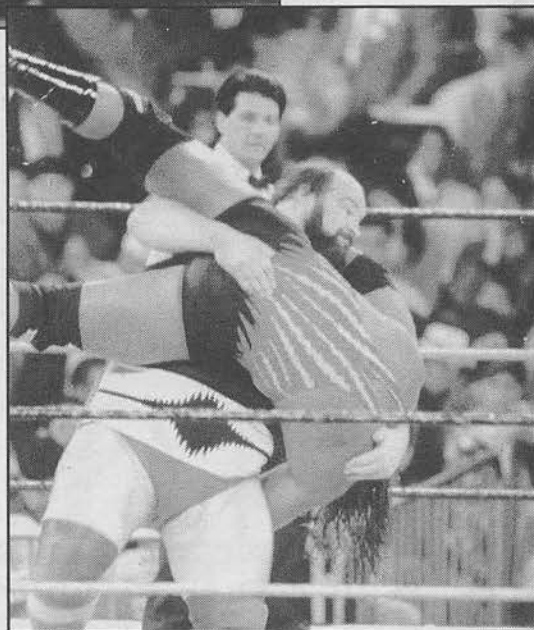
The potential is enormous. Upon arriving in the WWF last year, Adam Bomb scored convincing victories over Tatanka and Kid and bravely battled The Undertaker in a series of coffin matches. The losses were telling. Bomb came to the WWF after spending some time in SMW, so his good showings against the former WWF World champion were notable.

The experts took note. The book on Adam Bomb was all positive: young, big, smart, and talented. He is, in fact, the modern muscleman in that he has wrestling skills to go along with his sizable power.

As Adam Bomb's tenure under Whippleman wore on, the experts were starting to use phrases such as "wasted talent" and "overblown prospect" to describe him. More than a few people were comparing him to Razor Ramon, whose career struggled for years before he found himself.

Adam Bomb didn't struggle nearly as long. It's a foregone conclusion that Whippleman and Kwang don't stand a chance. Adam Bomb is heading onward and upward.

Adam Bomb vs. Ramon. Now *that* would definitely be one for the ages! □





A black and white photograph of Hulk Hogan. He is shirtless, wearing a white headband with the word "EGAN" in a stylized font, and white wrestling trunks. He is flexing his right arm, showing off his bicep. His left hand is raised near his face, with fingers spread. He has a determined, slightly pained expression on his face.

# "HULKSTER" UNDER SIEGE!

**Can Hogan Hold Off  
WCW'S Best?**

**Vader ... Sting ... Regal ... Austin ...  
Rhodes ... Flair. All these WCW stars  
have their sights set on World  
champion Hulk Hogan. And each has  
what it takes to topple the "Hulkster"**

**By Dave Rosenbaum**

**H**ULK HOGAN KNOWS winning a world title is the easy part. Defending it is a lot harder. There's no pressure on the challenger, even one as famous as Hulk Hogan. Since Hogan wasn't expected to beat Ric Flair at Bash at the Beach, his victory was seen as a tremendous accomplishment.

Now Hogan is on top of the world, and every wrestler in WCW wants to shoot him down. First, he'll have to deal with the inevitable rematches with Flair. And then what?

Whatcha gonna do, "Hulkster," when these WCW stars start running wild on you?

**Big Van Vader.** Potentially Hogan's toughest foe, this three-time former WCW World champion has a killer instinct the size of Jupiter and incredible agility for a man who's 6'5" and 450 pounds.

And he's angry, bitter, slighted. Vader wants to know why he has been ignored ever since losing a controversial title match to Flair at SuperBrawl IV.

"They've been ignoring me for too long," Vader growled. "You'd better believe that I'd like nothing better than to take out my frustrations on WCW's big ol' drawing card and squash him into the ground. Then we'd find out what 'Hulkamania's' really all about. A heap of dust!"

Vader dominated WCW for over

a year before losing the World title to Flair at Starrcade '93. Along the way, he seriously injured several opponents and nearly ended Cactus Jack's career. Vader's a bounty hunter and Hogan would be his toughest prey ... and his greatest conquest.

"I'd bet my life that Vader would destroy Hogan," said Harley Race, Vader's manager. "Hogan's never dealt with anyone like him."

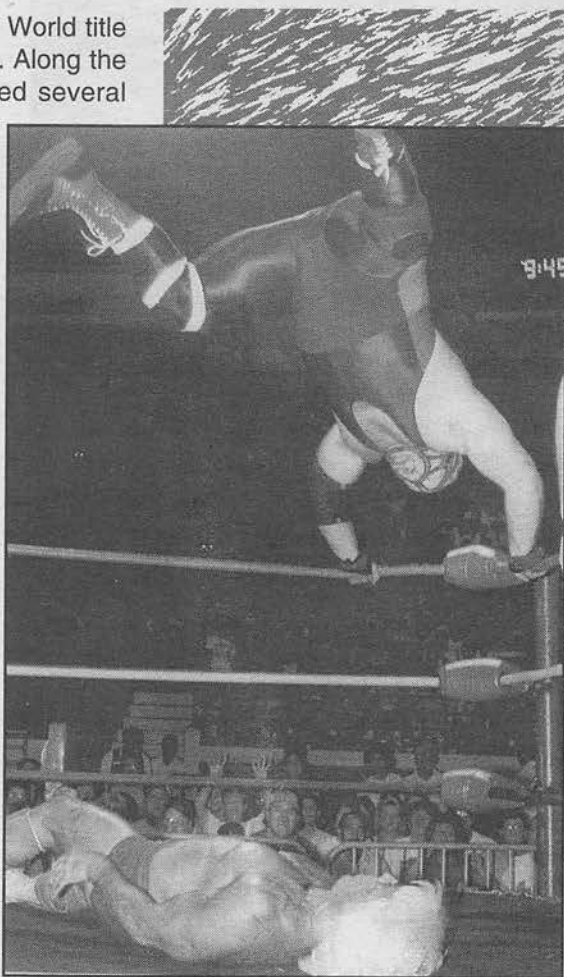
That's because there's nobody like Vader. Not even Hogan.

**Lord Steven Regal.** Outstanding scientific wrestlers have always given Hogan a heap of trouble. Several years ago, Hogan had his hands full with Ted DiBiase and couldn't convincingly beat the "Million-Dollar Man."

That's because Hogan has limited scientific skills and brains usually outlast brawn in this sport.

Hogan finally overcame DiBiase on sheer determination. He'd have to depend on that same attribute against Regal, who bills himself as "the greatest scientific wrestler in the world."

Regal vs. Hogan would be the classic battle of science vs. power.



No super heavyweight has the sheer athletic ability of Big Van Vader. The former World champion has punished other greats like Ric Flair and would love the chance to humble Hulk Hogan.



At press time, Regal was defending the WCW TV title against several contenders, including Japanese legend Antonio Inoki. If Regal gets past Inoki, he has every right to demand a shot at Hogan.

**Steve Austin.** According to WCW protocol, the U.S. champion is automatically the number-one contender to the World title. "Stunning" Steve Austin has been a convincing, if overlooked, U.S. champion and he has every right to a match against Hogan.

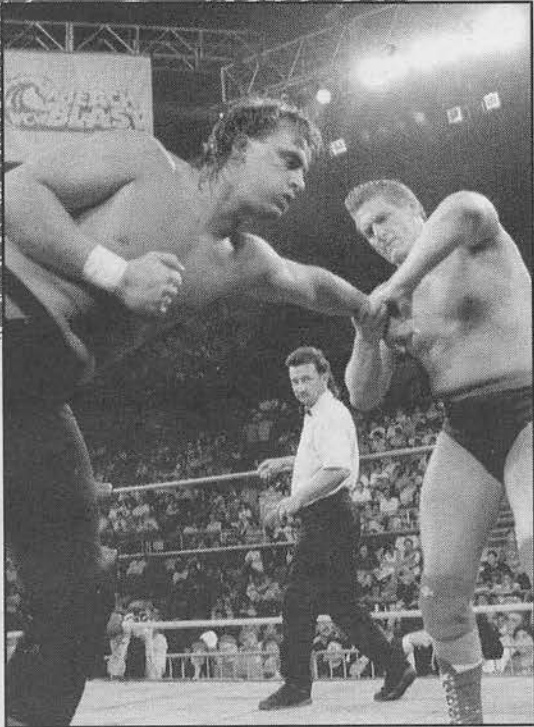
Like Flair, Austin combines scientific skills with a penchant for rulebreaking. Austin isn't nearly as accomplished or talented

as Flair, but he has an important factor in his favor: the desire to prove something.

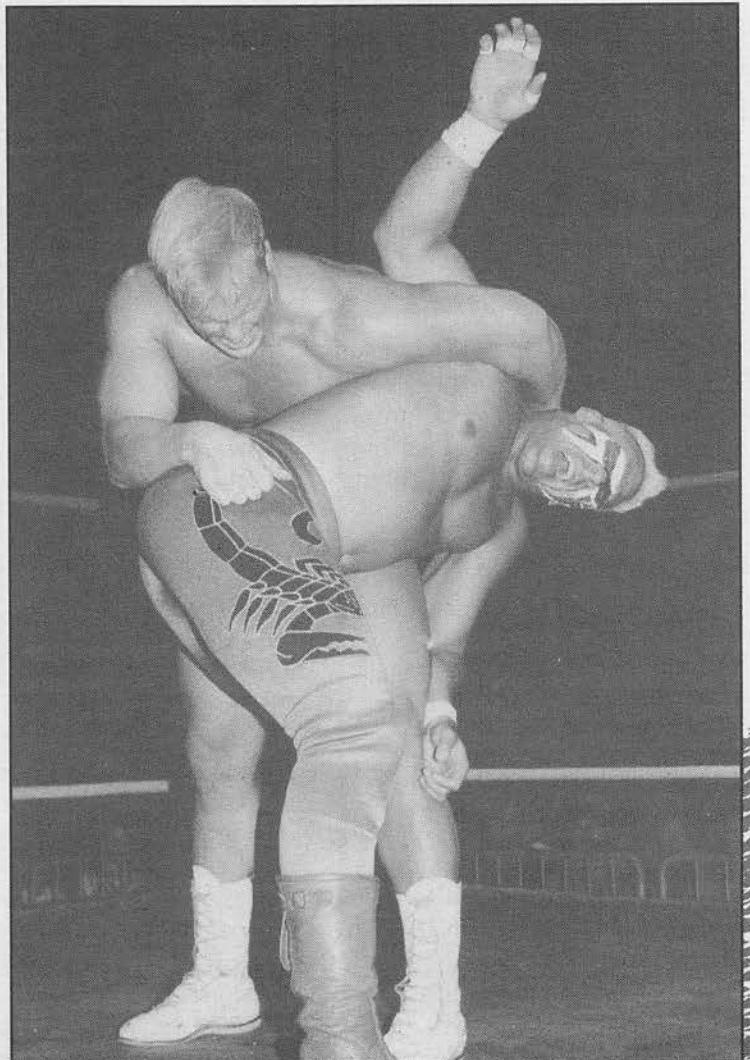
Austin remains relatively unknown to people outside of the wrestling world. A victory over Hogan would vault him over the top and make him a household name. Austin has the talent. He just thinks he needs the chance.

**Sting.** It's important for Hogan to realize that every WCW wrestler is a potential opponent. WCW's talent roster can no longer be divided into fan favorites and rule-breakers when discussing title contenders. Now there are three groups of WCW wrestlers: rule-breakers, fan favorites, and Hogan. Everyone wants the champ.

"Sure, I'd wrestle Hogan," Sting



Veteran international star Lord Steven Regal has confounded WCW rivals such as Erik Watts with his outstanding technical skills. The TV champion is the type of wrestler who traditionally gives Hogan fits.



Anyone's list of wrestlers whose stock is rising would include Steve Austin. While Sting is surely aware of Austin's ability, he remains relatively unknown elsewhere. Beating Hogan would surely change that.

said. "Any day of the week, any time. I want that belt as much as he does, as much as anyone does, and I'd welcome the chance to wrestle him."

There's no love lost for Hogan among the WCW wrestlers. Most of them view him as an enemy, the WWF star who invaded their turf. Sting has enjoyed working with Hogan on the TV series *Thunder In Paradise*, and has even become his tag team partner in WCW. But they haven't become so close that they wouldn't wrestle each other.

"There's no reason we couldn't wrestle each other," Sting said. "Friends wrestle friends. You don't have to hate an opponent to face him. Just fall back on your pride, that's all."

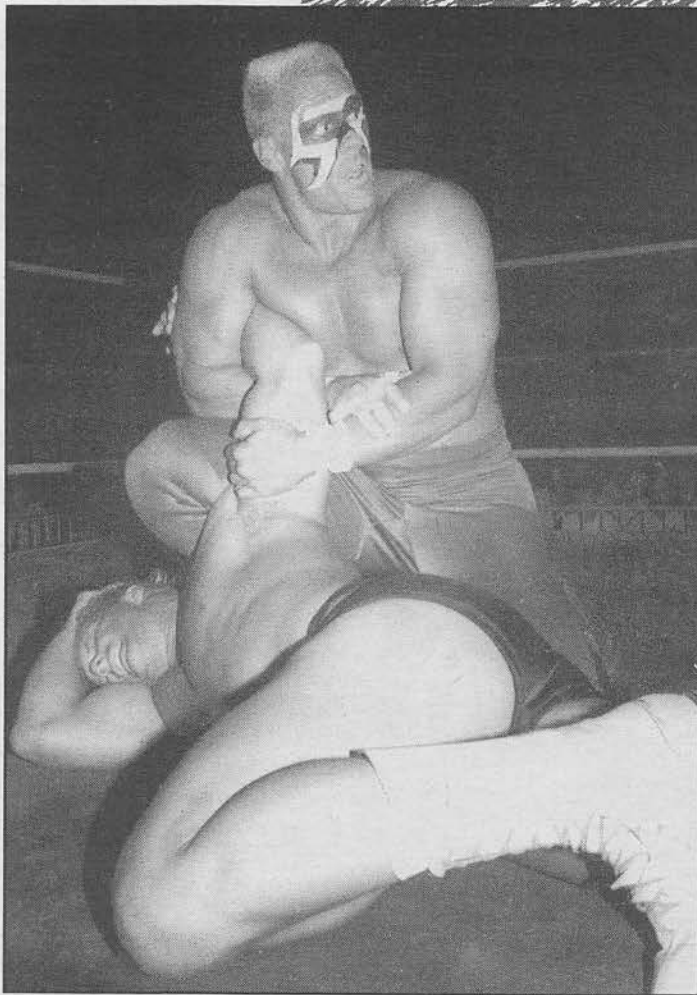
Sting would pose a Randy Savage-like challenge to Hogan, with a twist. Sting has better aerial skills; Savage has a better killer instinct. Sting has had several tastes of the WCW World title and knows exactly what it takes to be champion.

**Dustin Rhodes.** "The Natural" has a lot to worry about, like his feud with Bunkhouse Buck and Arn Anderson, the natural enemy of the Rhodes family. Still, we're sure Dustin would find the time to wrestle Hogan.

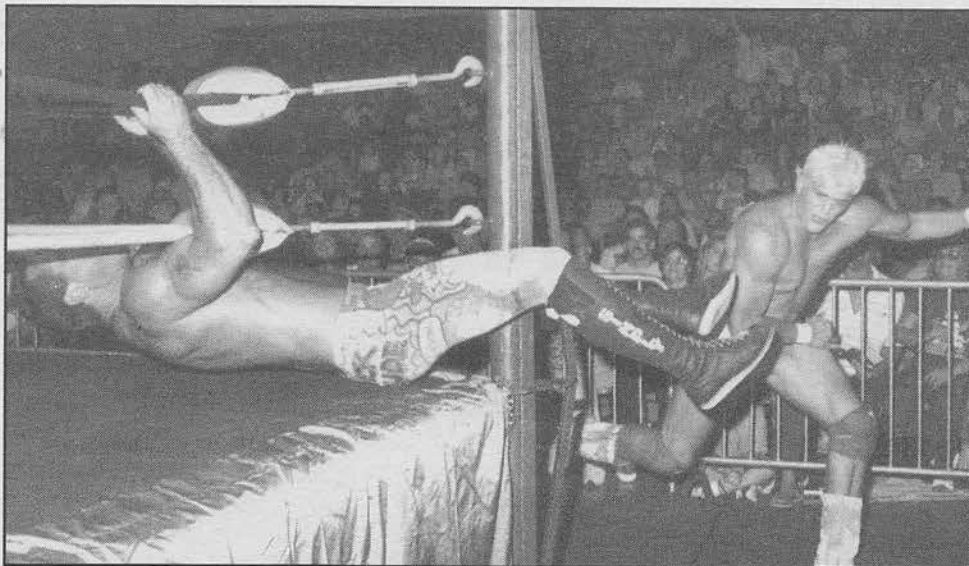
"Find the time?" Rhodes asked. "Heck, I'm there."

Because he has limited scientific skills and relies on brawling, Dustin is the least likely of these contenders to upset Hogan. But he has that Rhodes championship blood and, with a little tutoring from his father, could score a stunning upset.

But it's doubtful he'll be given the chance, so Hogan has other wrestlers to worry about. And plenty of them.



Sting may be the "Hulkster's" good friend and current tag team partner, but he says he wouldn't mind facing Hogan for the belt. The "Stinger" has won the WCW World title three times and has plenty of championship experience.

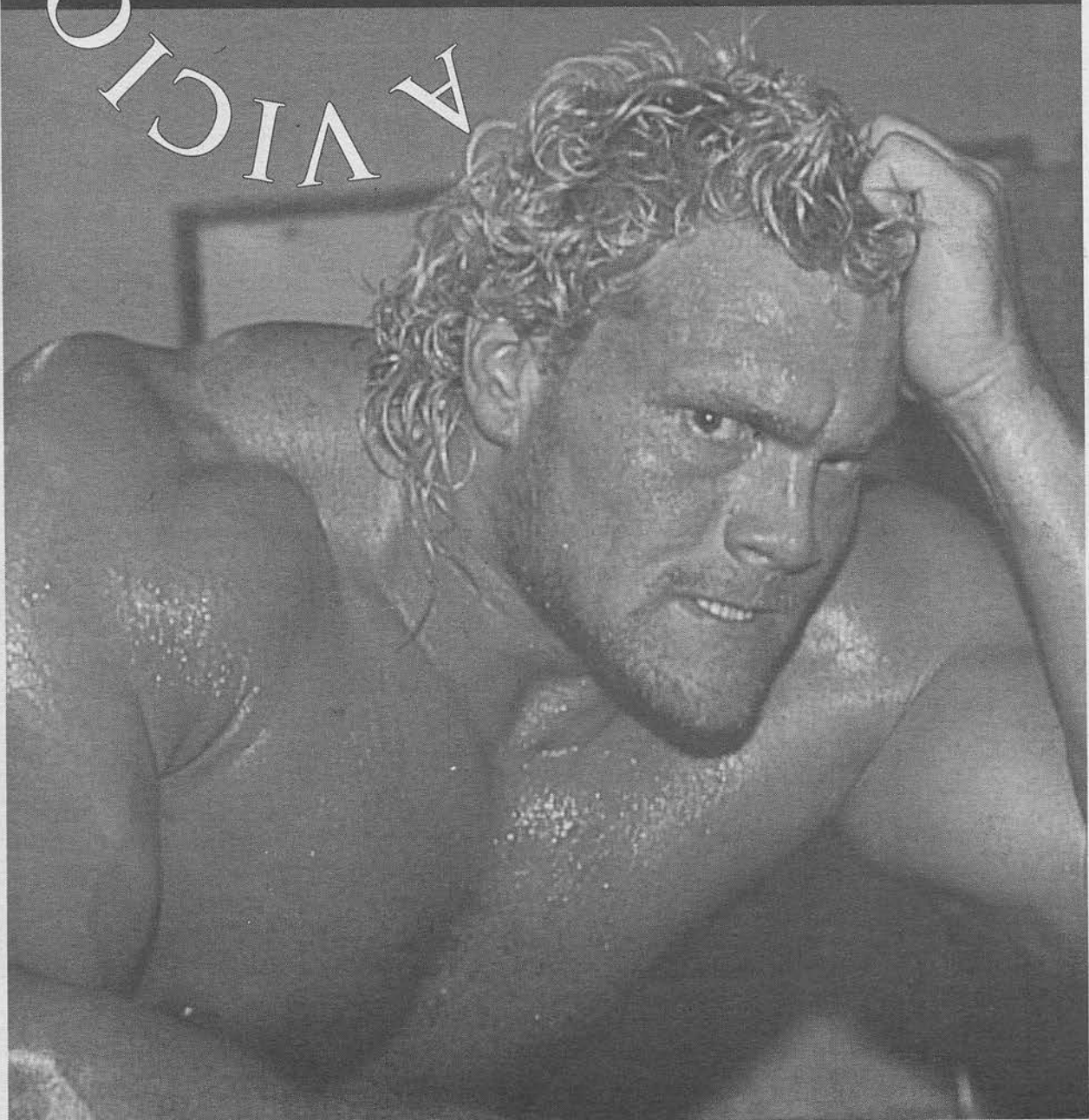


Dustin Rhodes is still a relatively unpolished wrestler, yet has beaten the likes of Rick Rude. His determination and family bloodlines would give him a slim chance of upsetting Hogan.

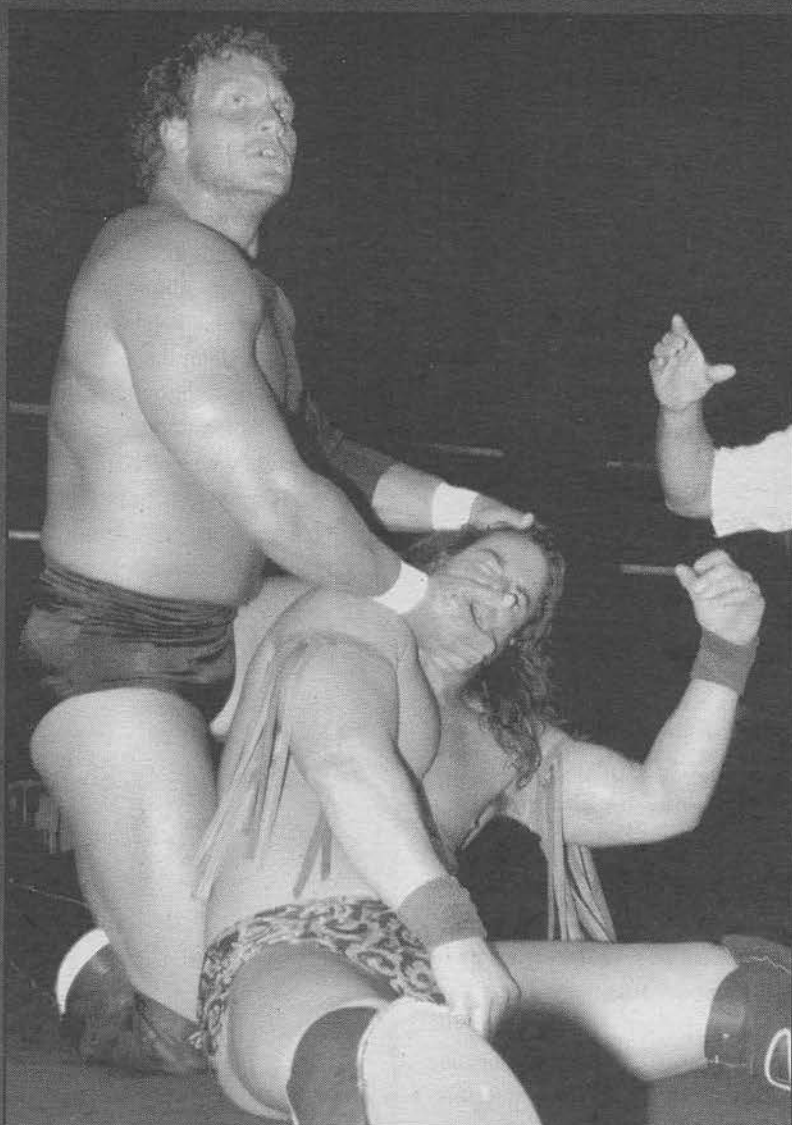


US CYCLE  
A VICIOUS  
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**WILL SID  
SELF-DESTRUCT  
BEFORE  
RECLAIMING  
SUPERSTARDOM?**



**On the  
verge of  
greatness for  
at least the  
fourth time,  
Sid Vicious  
needs to take  
the final steps  
to reach what  
many think  
is his destiny.  
Don't get too  
disappointed  
if it doesn't  
happen**



Sid Vicious, who at times has been his own worst enemy, hopes being in the USWA will revitalize his career. So far it has, as he has won its heavyweight title and successfully defended it against Jeff Gaylord.

**By Dave Rosenbaum**

**O**NCE AGAIN, SID VICIOUS finds himself climbing toward the top of the mountain and within heady reach of the top. He is a champion for the first time since 1988, having captured the USWA title, and Sid—along with everyone else—can see the future so clearly.

A few months of title defenses, including a victory or two over Memphis legend Jerry Lawler. A new contract with WCW or the WWF and, eventually, a shot at the world title in

either federation.

Then, finally, glory! The world title he has been waiting for. Nothing can go wrong this time. Sid Vicious, destined for stardom since Kerry Von Erich called him "the most awesome man I've ever wrestled," has nearly arrived.

And the view from the mountaintop will be glorious. It will be ...

Well, what will Vicious see when he takes that next step? Will he reach the top of the mountain he's been climbing for so long, or will he tumble

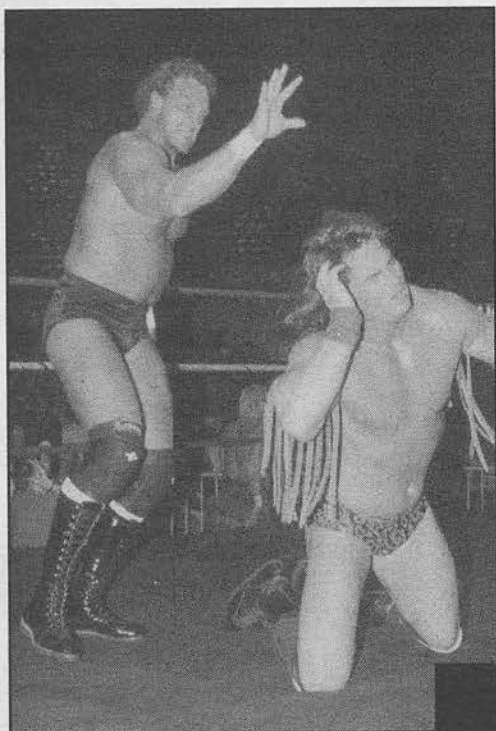
over the edge of a cliff into a deep, dark precipice toward the crash that finally ends his career? That very question goes to the very heart of Sid.

Anyone who has followed him from day one is betting on the cliff. Sure, he looks great now, but ...

"I hate to say it, but he's awesome," said Koko B. Ware, who is among the challengers to Sid's belt. "He looks fresh, fit, and determined. Sometimes, it's hard to wonder how he ever loses."

That's simple, Koko: He self-destructs.





**Opponents have long been aware of Vicious' power, but know he hasn't always had it under control. That may be changing, as Gaylord learns firsthand.**

Although Ware's observations might be correct, judging Sid's future by the present poses a dangerous problem: The promise is always better than the reality. Better that we judge his future by his past ... and hope that, this time, he doesn't make the same mistakes.

His most recent act of self-destruction occurred on October 28, 1993, at the Moat House Hotel in Blackburn, England. Sid was just two months away from the most important match of his career, the night of his deliverance. He had recently signed to wrestle WCW World champion Big Van Vader at Starrcade '93.

But Vicious and Arn Anderson became involved in a hotel room brawl that quickly turned violent. Before the fight was over, furniture went flying and there was blood everywhere. Several men finally pried Vicious and Anderson apart and the combatants were then rushed to a local hospital.

That chapter in Sid's career ended right there. WCW wanted no part of him, and the Starrcade match was cancelled. We all know what happened—Flair got the match and beat Vader for the World title.

Although there are conflicting reports about what happened in that hotel room, some sources claim that Vicious initiated the fight by knocking on Anderson's door, then attacking him with a piece of a chair.

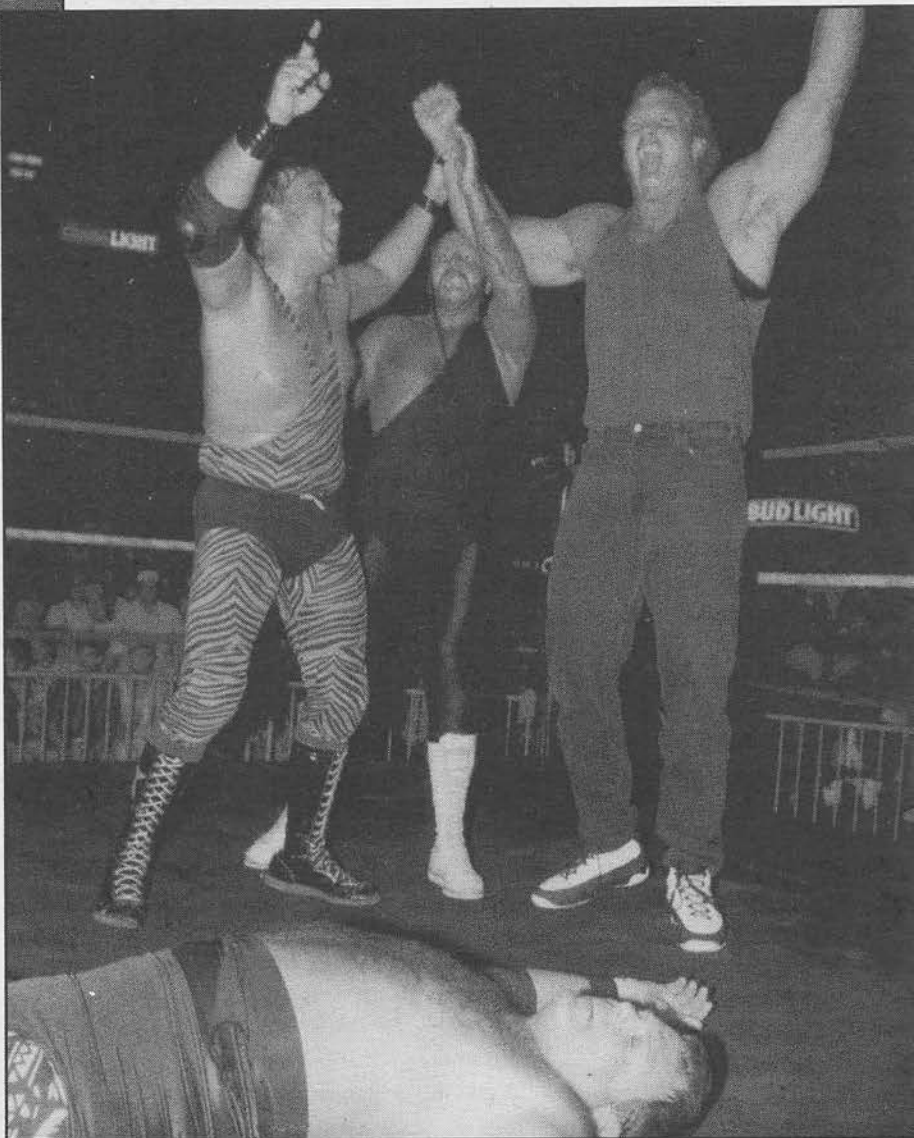
It's easy to believe those reports when considering Sid's record. It's absolutely amazing that this incredibly muscular

6'8", 318-pound superman hadn't won a title since beating Brian Lee for the CWA belt in December 1988.

His career has been even more amazing.

The incident last fall wasn't the first time Vicious was on the verge of getting his big break, only to watch things go drastically wrong. It wasn't even the second time.

Sid, of course, was the victim of the famous impostor Sting incident. Sid, at the time a member of The Four Horsemen, had apparently pinned Sting for the WCW World title. Then his whole world unravelled. It turned out that Sting was actually Barry Windham made up to look like Sting. Once the



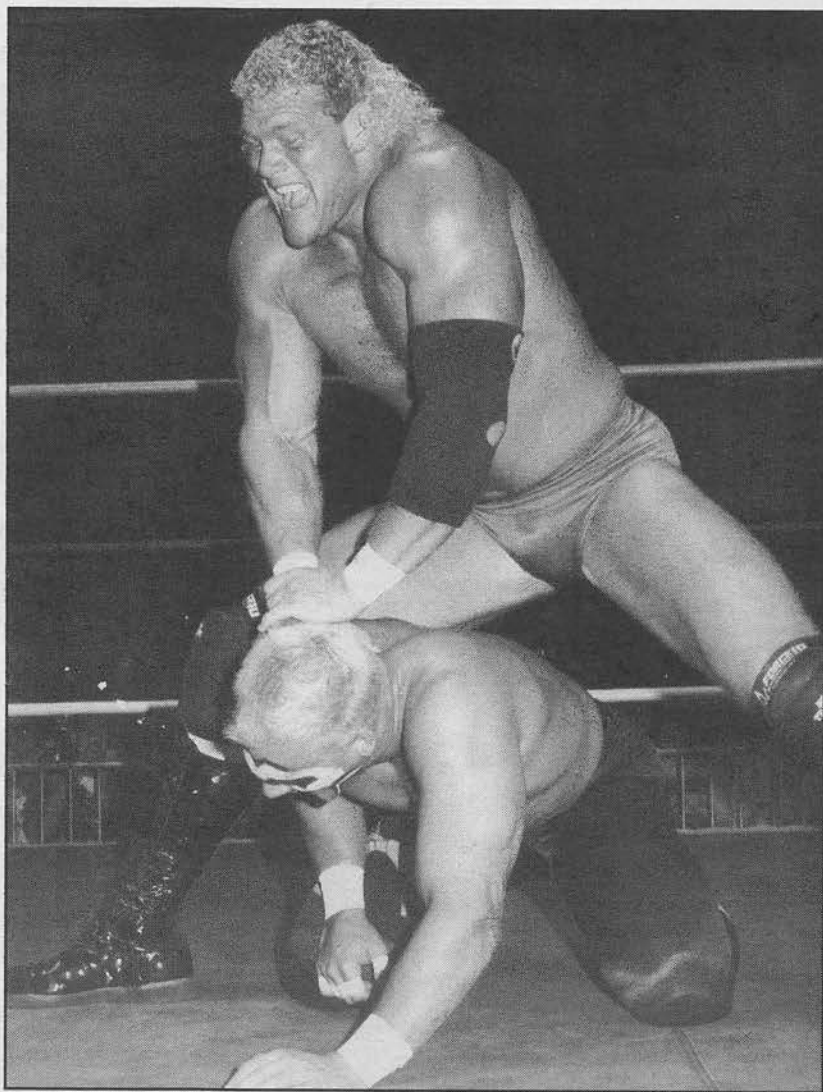
match resumed, the real Sting emerged to pin the shocked Sid.

In 1992, Sid (known as Sid Justice in the WWF) thought his performance in the Royal Rumble earned him a World title shot at WrestleMania VII against then-champion Ric Flair. But Sid ended up with a grudge match against Hulk Hogan at WrestleMania while Flair wrestled Randy Savage. Justice disappeared from the WWF shortly afterward.

Sid insists things will be different this time. He has learned from his mistakes.

"I've wasted a lot of time," he said. "This time, I'm going all the way. In the past, I've let a lot of people stop me who I should've just ignored. Anderson was like a fly on my butt. The Four Horsemen didn't have any faith in me, but that shouldn't have mattered. Jack Tunney obviously didn't want me to be WWF World champion, but I

**Vicious won the title—but not in a bout! He interfered earlier on the card, choking Jerry Lawler (below). Vicious won the belt when Lawler failed to appear for his bout. He has since helped Doug Gilbert and Troy Graham torture "The King" (opposite page).**



should've just run over him.

"This time, I'm running over anyone who gets in my way. There aren't going to be any outside distractions. I will achieve my destiny."

We can believe him because Sid has all of the tools required for greatness. He's still young enough to become one of the most dominating wrestlers in history.

It may also help that Vicious is in the Memphis-based USWA, a riverboat ferry away from his hometown of West Memphis, Arkansas. That may be an environment where Sid can flourish and set himself straight for the long haul. So far, the federation is happy with the big muscleman.

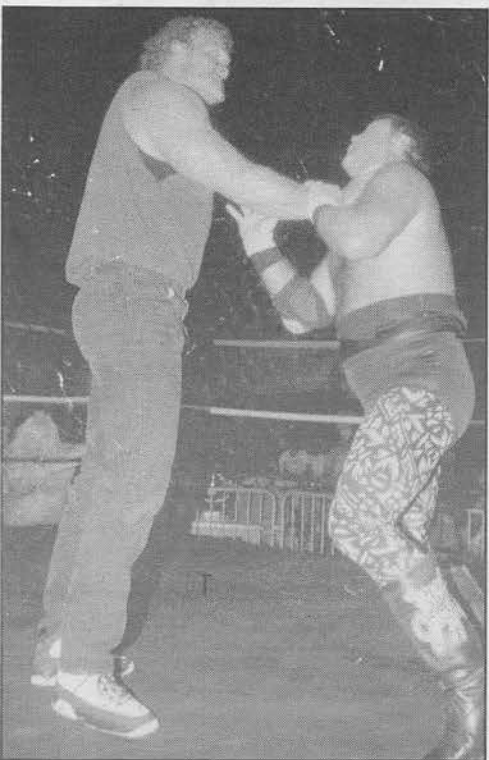
"So far, so good," said a USWA

**Vicious has had two stints in WCW, plus another in the WWF as Sid Justice. He's held his own against champions like Sting, but fate always seemed to conspire against him. Maybe this time, things will finally work out.**

official. "Sid's had his struggles, we all know that. Some of us weren't sure if we wanted him here, others thought it was worth the gamble. I thought returning to this area would do him good, and it has. We couldn't be happier. His attitude's been great."

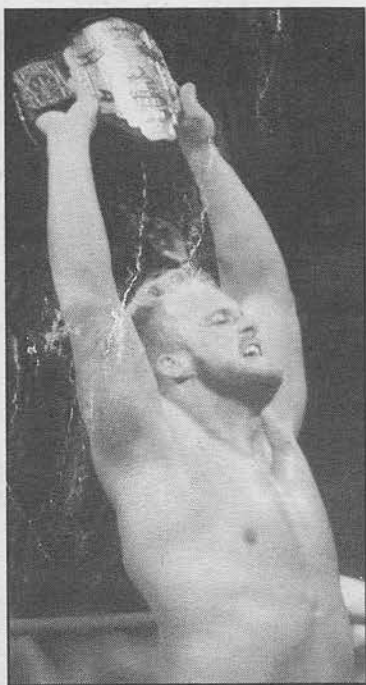
Maybe wisdom comes with age. But we just can't help but think that the incident in England occurred less than a year ago.

If Sid has matured, he's done a lot of learning in under 12 months. □





# STEVE AUSTIN:



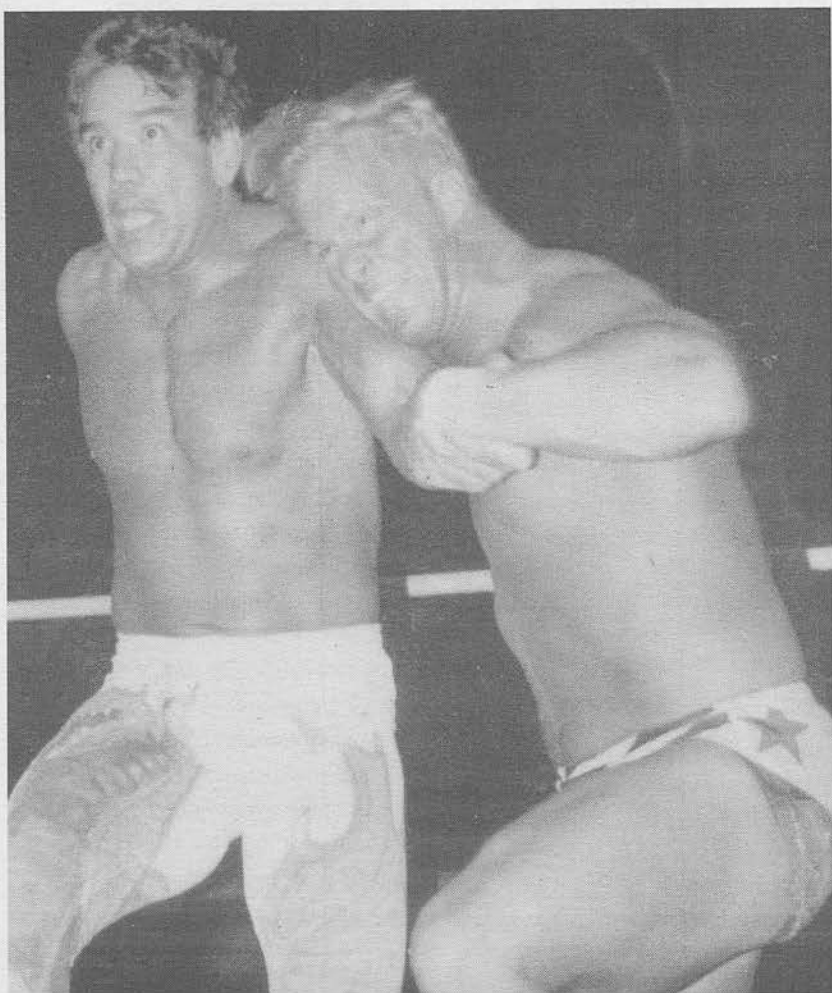
# 21ST-CENTURY "NATURE BOY"

***By Rick Steamboat***

**H**AS THERE BEEN a better wrestler than Ric Flair over the past two decades? I don't believe there has been. I have wrestled Flair many times, often with major championships at stake. For many years, I despised him and everything he stood for. However, I have always acknowledged and admired his ability, his resourcefulness, and his courage. He is a sure Hall of Famer.

Sure, Ric lost the WCW World title to Hulk Hogan, but I have to believe he'll win it back. He's just too damn good. With all respect to Hogan—who in my opinion is a great wrestler and a great champion—Flair will find a way to get that prized gold back around his waist.

Often, my fellow wrestlers and fans ask me who I think some of the potential greats are in the sport today. They even ask me if I think there's anybody out there



whom I would call "the next Ric Flair."

There is, as a matter of fact, and his name is Steve Austin.

I can almost see all of you shaking your heads. Steve Austin? You've got to be kidding, "Dragon". After all he's done to you. How can you give a guy like that so much respect?

It's easy: He's an outstanding young wrestler.

Naturally, I don't condone Austin's methods. He relies entirely too much on rulebreaking when he doesn't need to. However, looking at him purely from a talent standpoint, he matches up very well against Flair.

To start off, he was taught well. Chris Adams trained him, and I can't think of many better teachers than Chris. Austin apparently was a model pupil. He and Adams ended up having a pretty nasty feud, but it would be impossible for Austin to deny that he wouldn't be the wrestler he is had it not been for Adams.

Austin rose so quickly that it didn't take him long to arrive in WCW and immediately make his presence felt. He started a feud with Bobby Eaton over the TV belt. Now, Bobby's one of the best technical grapplers around, but Austin stood right in there with him. Steve proved he belonged in the major leagues. He impressed a lot of people, me among them.

What Austin showed me most of all during that feud with Eaton was how well-developed his aerial skills had become. In order to be competitive with Eaton, Steve obviously worked hard to develop that part of his game. I would never call him the classic "aerial

wrestler," but he had definitely made himself a multifaceted competitor.

A few years after the Eaton feud, Austin demonstrated he could also be a fine tag team wrestler. When he teamed with Brian Pillman to form The Hollywood Blonds, there were a lot of skeptics, including me. Sure, the

Ric Flair  
ranks among  
the greatest  
wrestlers ever, but  
Steve Austin is  
approaching the  
"Nature Boy's"  
level. That's not  
Austin's opinion,  
but that of Rick  
Steamboat, who  
respects Austin as  
much as he  
despises him

talent was there, but I didn't think these two headstrong young guys would ever be able to work together.

They proved a lot of skeptics wrong by not only thriving, but winning the WCW World tag team title. They worked together

brilliantly. More importantly, Austin showed he could submerge his ego for the good of the team. That marked an important step toward his development as a complete wrestler. A lot of folks forget that Flair has wrestled hundreds of tag team bouts.

The Blonds, as it has been noted elsewhere, could have been one of the greatest tag teams of the decade had they chosen to stay together. On the other hand, it's probably better for Austin that they split up. It allows him to "fulfill his destiny," as it were, of becoming a truly great singles competitor.

Austin graduated to the next level by winning the U.S. title. With that victory he moved himself into the wrestling elite. There is no doubt he made a big mistake by allying himself with Col. Robert Parker, but by his actions he proved he still was very much his own man.

So far I've said all these great things about Austin, but I really wasn't convinced how good he was until I began pursuing the U.S. title he holds. Only after I had actually wrestled him over a period of time did I ever imagine I'd be comparing him favorably with Flair.

In our bout at Bash at the Beach, Austin impressed me not only with his skills, but with his tenacity and resiliency. There were several times I surely thought I had him beat, and each time he kicked out he surprised me even more. I especially believed I had him beat when I used his own favorite move, the "stun gun," against him, but he proved me wrong.

What I really noticed in that match, though, was a quality



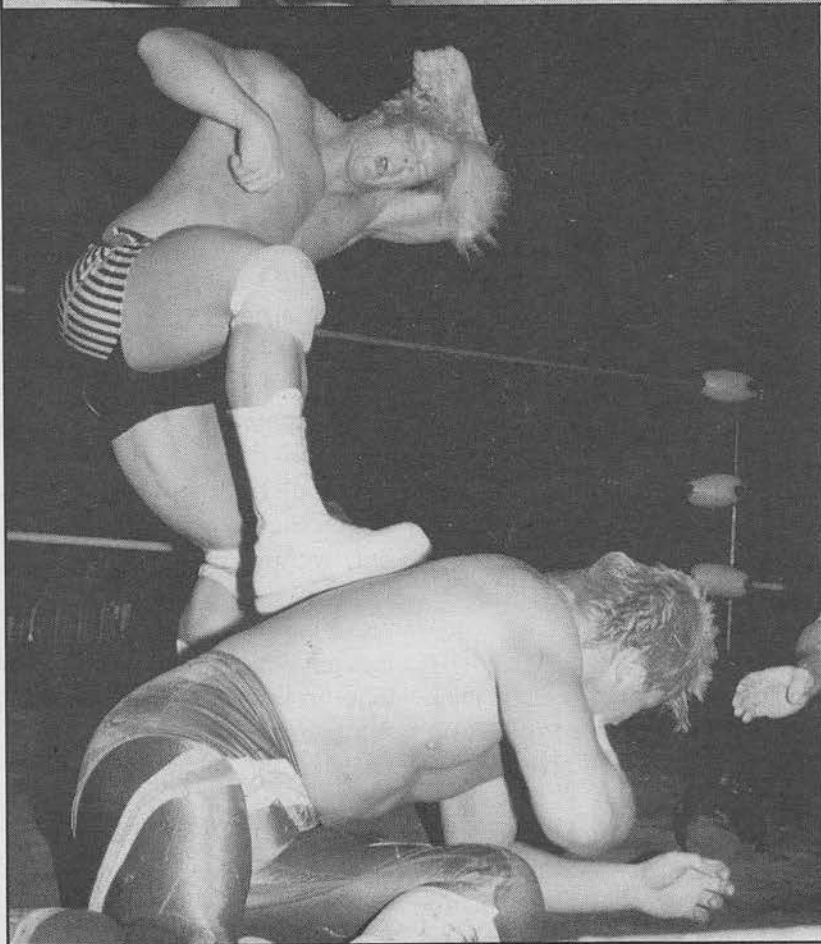


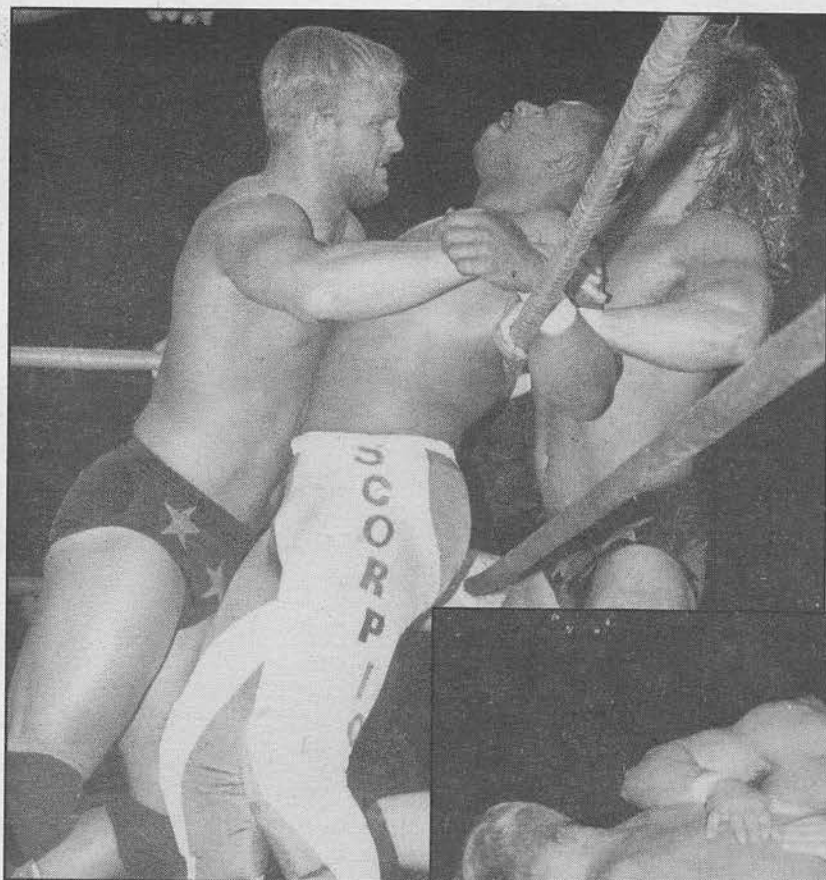
Steve Austin learned his craft from Texas star Chris Adams, one of wrestling's best instructors. Ultimately, the student turned on the teacher and the feud became violent.

about Austin that makes the comparison with Flair stick. Like Flair, he seems to know instinctively when he is in real trouble and what he has to do to get out of that trouble. This is a quality very few wrestlers have. It is what has helped make Flair the legend he is.

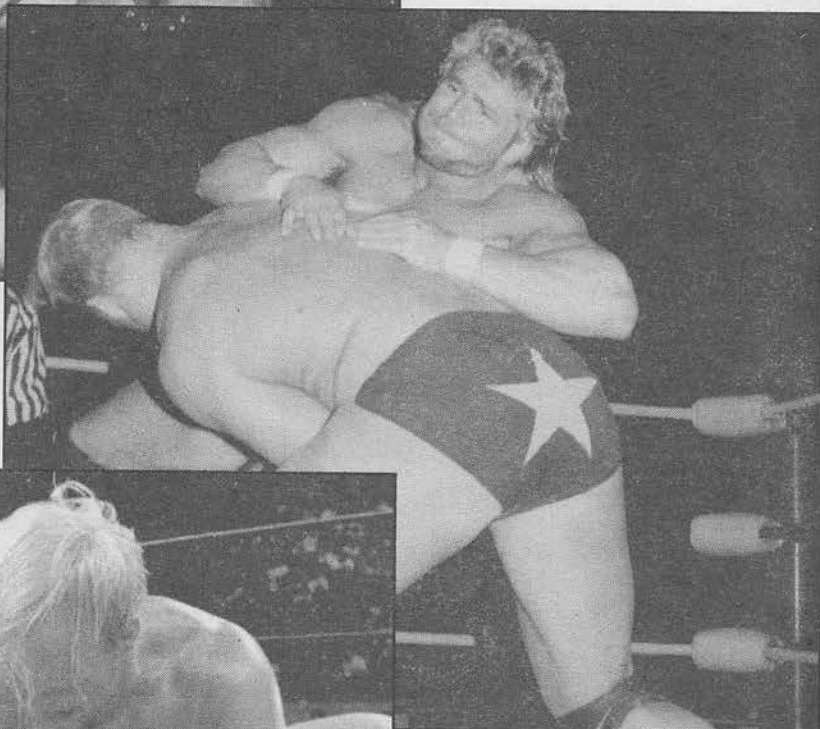
In the Bash contest, when I hit Austin with a flying bodypress I thought that was it, that I was going to walk out of the ring with the U.S. title belt. Somehow Austin managed to reverse it, and he ended up pinning me! I can't figure out how he did it, but

Austin entered WCW in 1991, where he quickly began feuding with TV champion Bobby Eaton. The rookie more than held his own against Eaton, further enhancing his reputation with federation rivals.





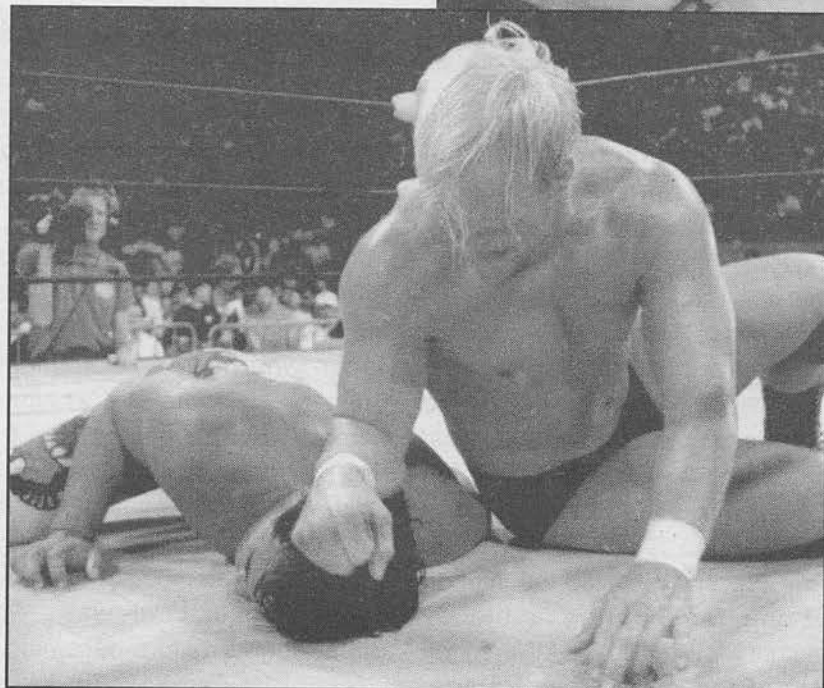
When Austin and Brian Pillman formed The Hollywood Blonds, many wondered whether they could work together. They did, beautifully. Austin and Pillman sandwich 2 Cold Scorpion during 1993 tag team action (above).



he did, really confirming in my mind that here was a guy who had a special talent for coming out ahead.

Maybe it is too early to put Austin on the same level as Flair, but it does seem as though for Austin, all the pieces are falling into place. He is still a young man, and I certainly think he'll win the World championship someday.

Eventually Austin and Pillman had a falling-out (below), and the tag team partners became bitter enemies. The split occurred over Austin's alliance with manager Col. Robert Parker.



Now U.S. champion, Austin continues improving at a marked rate. He made a believer of Steamboat at the Bash at the Beach pay-per-view (left), so much that "The Dragon" contends Austin may become the next generation's Ric Flair.

Ultimately, Flair is greatest when he's not constantly thinking of ways to break the rules. When Austin eschews rulebreaking himself, he truly will have reached Flair's level. □

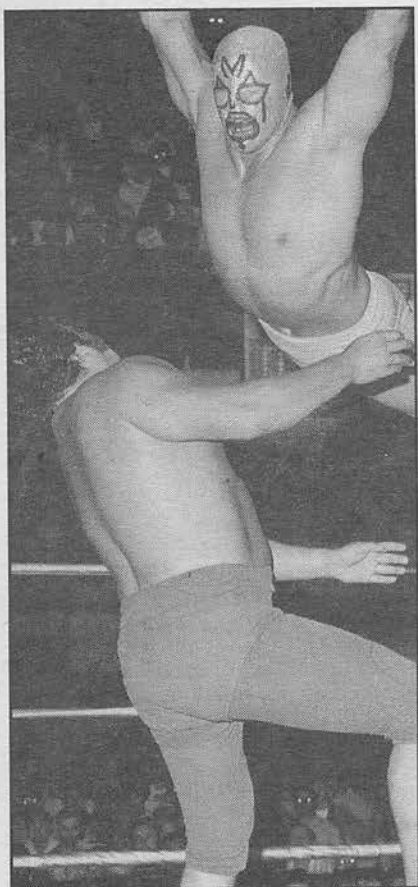


# SCRAPBOOK

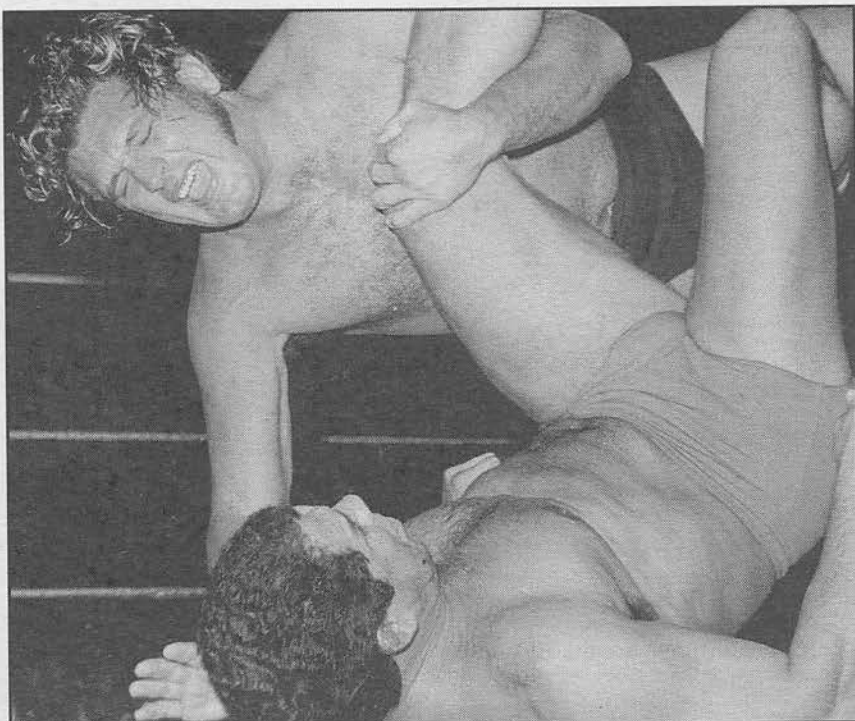
Explore with us the rich history of this great sport as we recall the important news stories at five-year intervals dating back a quarter of a century.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER  
**1969**

**B**RUISER AND BLACKJACK Lanza were involved in one of the most vicious feuds the Midwest had ever seen. Although Bruiser had just become a fan favorite, their matches were bloody slugfests ... Former NWA World champion Lou Thesz refer-



Mexico's Mil Mascaras (leaping onto Mr. Saito) was voted the most popular wrestler in a 1969 poll of Los Angeles fans. Most hated "honors" in L.A. went to The Sheik.



Dale Lewis (battling La Pantera) said he was accustomed to cutthroat competition. He claimed the "animals" he had confronted as a Wall Street analyst were tougher than anyone he faced in professional wrestling.

eed Dory Funk Jr.'s St. Louis title defense against the man from whom he won the title, Gene Kiniski. Thesz kept the rulebreaking Kiniski in check, and Funk won the title rematch ... Los Angeles fans polled named Mil Mascaras the area's most popular wrestler, followed by The Medics, Pedro Morales, and Terry Funk. Most hated in L.A. was The Sheik, followed by Fred Blassie, Buddy Austin, and Black Gordman ... Ray Stevens received the support of the fans during a bloody encounter with Big Bill Miller in the San Francisco Cow Palace. Stevens, who only a year before

was the most hated man on the Northern California scene, won the bloody bout with his famous "bombs away" maneuver ... Abdullah Farouk, manager of The Sheik, accepted a match against Mr. Moto, the former wrestler from Japan who had been managing Bobo Brazil. Moto overwhelmed Farouk, who was carried from the ring on a stretcher ... Dale Lewis claimed that the "animals" of professional wrestling weren't nearly as bad as his competitors from his previous career. Lewis was a Wall Street analyst before becoming a wrestler ... Cowboy Bill Watts clamped the sleeperhold on an

employee of WDAY-TV in Fargo, North Dakota. Watts, a guest on the *Lady Quest* talk show, was explaining the hold when his host suggested he demonstrate it... Dory Dixon, who had retired in 1963 after losing a close match against then-NWA World champion Buddy Rogers, returned to action in Australia. Experts observed that Dixon had lost none of his amazing quickness and skill during the layoff ... Responding to the protest over his article in the November 1969 issue of *THE WRESTLER* in which he suggested that America's youth take a bath and get a haircut, Dory Funk Jr. said, "I meant every word of it, and I'll keep right on expressing my views."

**NWA RATINGS:** 1—Dory Funk Jr.; 2—Gene Kiniski; 3—Mil Mascaras; 4—The Sheik; 5—Fritz Von Erich; 6—Eddie Graham; 7—Cowboy Bob Ellis; 8—Ernie Ladd; 9—Bob Geigel; 10—Johnny Valentine.

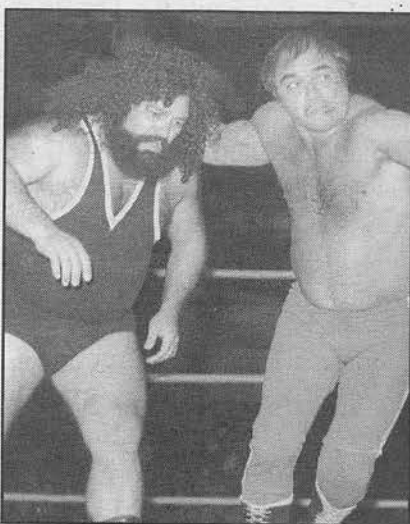
**AWA RATINGS:** 1—Verne Gagne; 2—Bill Watts; 3—Harley Race; 4—Blackjack Lanza; 5—Bruiser; 6—Crusher; 7—Mad Dog Vachon; 8—Mighty Igor; 9—Doug Gilbert; 10—Reg Parks.

**WWF RATINGS:** 1—Bruno Sammartino; 2—Gorilla Monsoon; 3—Edouard Carpentier; 4—Spiros Arion; 5—Killer Kowalski; 6—George Steele; 7—Miguel Perez; 8—Prof. Toru Tanaka; 9—Bull Ramos; 10—Victor Rivera.

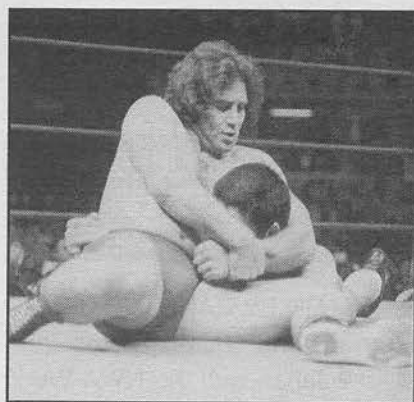
**TAG TEAMS:** 1—Tony Marino & Victor Rivera; 2—Bruiser & Crusher; 3—Prof. Toru Tanaka & Mitsu Arakawa; 4—Pepper Gomez & Pedro Morales; 5—Mad Dog & Butcher Vachon; 6—George Becker & Johnny Weaver; 7—Ole & Gene Anderson; 8—The Assassins; 9—The Medics; 10—Kenji Shibuya & Haru Sasaki.

## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1974

**J**ACK BRISCO LOST the NWA World title on December 2 in Kagoshimi, Japan, to Shohei "Giant" Baba, and then won the title back on December 9 ... Superstar Spiros Arion and fan favorite Chief Jay Strongbow formed a tag team in the Northeast and set their sights on the WWF tag team belts held by Jimmy and Johnny Valiant ... Mike and Pat Kelly defeated Lenny Hurst and Rick Martel for the International tag team title ... Bruno Sammartino successfully defended his WWF title against Killer Kowalski in Rhode Island's Providence Civic Center. A powerful Sammartino dropkick sent Kowalski careening into the steel ringpost. Kowalski fell to the mat unconscious and was covered for the victory ... Victor Rivera and Dino Bravo won an elimination tournament at Los Angeles' Olympic Auditorium to crown new Americas tag team champions. Former champions Otto Von Heller and Kurt Von Hess had



John Tolos delighted a crowd in Los Angeles in 1974, as he defeated wild Argentinian Pampero Firpo for the NWA Americas singles title.



Jack Brisco lost his NWA World title to Giant Baba in Japan late in 1974. However, Baba only held the championship for a week before Brisco beat him to regain the belt.

been stripped of the title by the NWA ... The Americas singles title also changed hands, with John Tolos taking the belt from Argentine wildman Pampero Firpo ... Wahoo McDaniel and Tiger Conway Jr. defeated Mid-Atlantic tag team champions Rip Hawk and Ric Flair in a non-title bout to earn a future title match.

**NWA RATINGS:** 1—Jack Brisco; 2—Shohei Baba; 3—Dory Funk Jr.; 4—The Sheik; 5—John Tolos; 6—Peter Maivia; 7—Terry Funk; 8—Don Muraco; 9—Jerry Lawler; 10—Pampero Firpo.

**AWA RATINGS:** 1—Verne Gagne; 2—Billy Robinson; 3—Nick Bockwinkel; 4—Ray Stevens; 5—Larry Hennig; 6—Crusher; 7—Ivan Putski; 8—Greg Gagne; 9—Buddy Wolfe; 10—Geoff Portz.

**WWF RATINGS:** 1—Bruno Sammartino; 2—Bobby Duncum; 3—Pedro Morales; 4—Chief Jay Strongbow; 5—Killer Kowalski; 6—Gorilla Monsoon; 7—Strong Kobayashi; 8—Tony Garea; 9—Spiros Arion; 10—Dean Ho.

**TAG TEAMS:** 1—The Valiant brothers; 2—Billy Robinson & Crusher; 3—Dino Bravo & Victor Rivera; 4—Fred Curry & Bobo Brazil; 5—Mike & Pat Kelly; 6—Toru Tanaka & Dick Slater; 7—The Love brothers; 8—The



Legionnaires; 9—Dory Funk Jr. & Terry Funk; 10—Tony Garea & Dean Ho.

## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1979

**H**ARLEY RACE RETURNED to the United States from Japan with the NWA World championship, having lost it for one week to Giant Baba while on tour. "Why talk about Baba's victory?" Race said to reporters at St.

Though he got himself disqualified, Sweet Brown Sugar impressed the fans and the press with his performance against NWA World champion Harley Race ... Tim Woods told Mid-Atlantic fans that he would not don his "Mr. Wrestling" mask again until he defeated former WWF and NWA World champion Buddy Rogers and his protege, then-U.S. champion Jimmy Snuka ... Rogers was also involved in a feud with fellow "Nature Boy" Ric Flair. Their battles in the Mid-Atlantic region are remembered as "the showdown of the figure-four leglock" ... *Inside Wrestling* learned that Capt. Lou Albano had signed Bobby Duncum to a title match contract with WWF champ Bob Backlund only to "soften" Backlund for an upcoming title challenge for the Grand Wizard's number-one man, Ken Patera. In return, the Wizard sold the contract of Pat Patterson to Albano for \$100,000 instead of the previous selling price of \$500,000.



Self-unmasked! Tim Woods, a.k.a. "Mr. Wrestling," vowed in 1979 not to wear his famed mask until he had beaten former World champion Buddy Rogers and then-U.S. champion Jimmy Snuka.

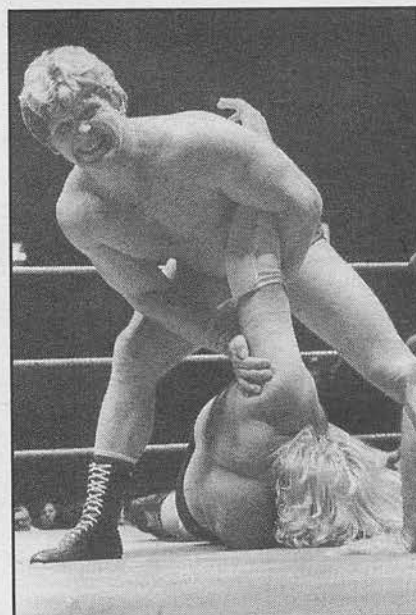
Louis International Airport. "Let's talk about history, boys. I am now champion for the fourth time in my career. That makes me greater than any active wrestler today." Race would go on to win the coveted World title a record seven times ... After Ole Anderson and Ernie Ladd were stripped of the Georgia tag team title, a one-night tournament crowned Austin Idol and Masked Superstar new champs ... The Spoiler was disqualified in his match against Kevin Von Erich for using the clawhold—on the referee! ...

**NWA RATINGS:** 1—Harley Race; 2—Dusty Rhodes; 3—Jimmy Snuka; 4—Shohei Baba; 5—Mr. Wrestling II; 6—Tommy Rich; 7—Ric Flair; 8—Jim Brunzell; 9—Bruiser Brody; 10—Kevin Von Erich.

**AWA RATINGS:** 1—Nick Bockwinkel; 2—Dino Bravo; 3—Greg Gagne; 4—Verne Gagne; 5—Mad Dog Vachon; 6—Billy Robinson; 7—Jerry Lawler; 8—Super Destroyer II; 9—Larry Hennig; 10—Bill Dundee.

**WWF RATINGS:** 1—Bob Backlund; 2—Ken Patera; 3—Bobby Duncum; 4—Pat Patterson; 5—Ivan Putski; 6—Swede Hanson; 7—Hulk Hogan; 8—Ted DiBiase; 9—Tito Santana; 10—Larry Zbyszko.

**TAG TEAMS:** 1—Ivan Putski &

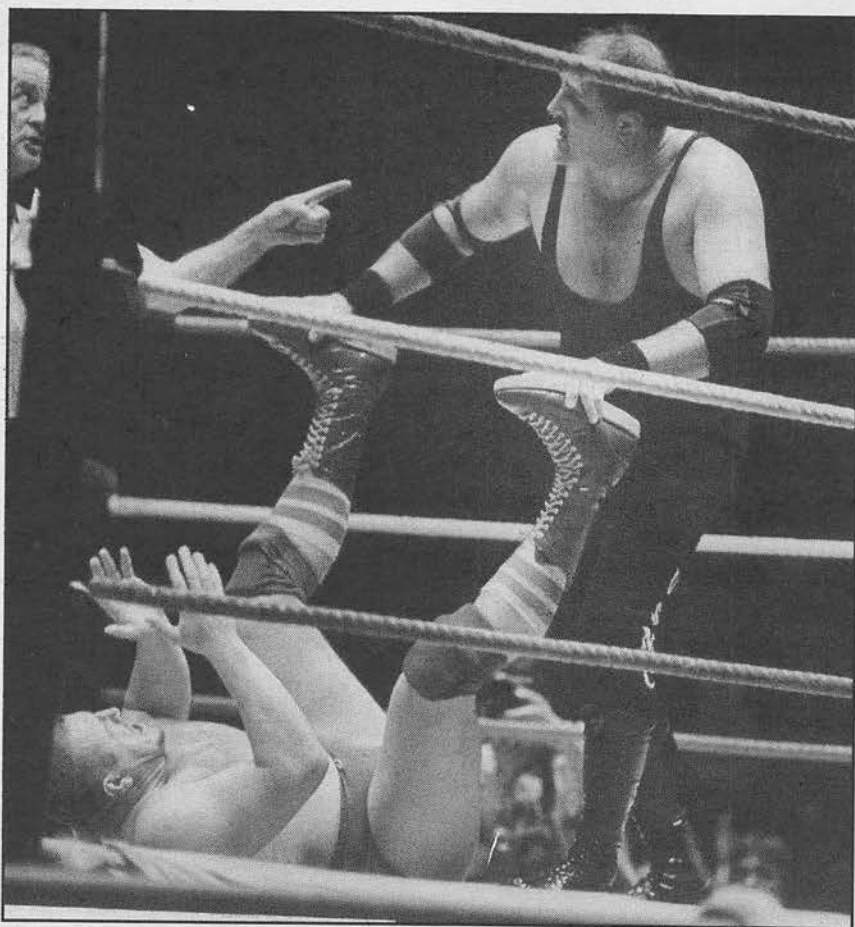


Could Bob Backlund be "softened"? Some rivals thought so. Capt. Lou Albano's Bobby Duncum signed to face the WWF World champ in 1979, but only to make a future challenge easier for The Grand Wizard's Ken Patera.

Tito Santana; 2—Rick Steamboat & Jay Youngblood; 3—Verne Gagne & Mad Dog Vachon; 4—Bryan St. John & Stan Lane; 5—Paul Jones & Baron Von Raschke; 6—The Samoans; 7—Bruiser Brody & Kerry Von Erich; 8—Austin Idol & Masked Superstar; 9—Mr. Hito & Mr. Sakurada; 10—The Avenger & The Assassin.

## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1984

**O**NE OF WRESTLING'S most famous feuds ever erupted on December 28 at Madison Square Garden when Roddy Piper smashed a plaque from the Multiple Sclerosis Society over Capt. Lou Albano's head. Cyndi Lauper and her manager, Dave Wolff, also became involved in the fracas ... Sgt. Slaughter waged a courageous war in defense of the U.S. against Soviet strongman Nikolai Volkoff ... The Freebirds-Von Erich war came to



Wrestling had a cold war of its own in 1984 as U.S. defender Sgt. Slaughter held off challenges from Soviet strongman Nikolai Volkoff. Many years later, the situation was reversed and Slaughter became an anti-American.

a temporary standstill when enemies Terry Gordy and Kerry Von Erich shook hands after a match between Gordy and Killer Khan in which Von Erich served as special referee ... Dusty Rhodes battled NWA World champion Ric Flair at Starrcade '84 in Greensboro, North Carolina. But Rhodes lost his shot at the title and the \$1-million purse when special referee, former heavyweight champ Joe Frazier, ruled that Rhodes was too bloody to continue ... After nearly a year away from the ring, former WWF World champ Bob Backlund made his return against Cowboy Ron Bass ... Scott and Bill Irwin—a.k.a. The Long Riders—won a tournament for the vacant Georgia National tag team belts ... Ted DiBiase and Hercules Hernandez captured the Mid-South tag team

belts from The Rock 'n' Roll Express in New Orleans, but lost them back to Rick Morton and Robert Gibson on Christmas night in the same city ... Crusher Blackwell upset Harley Race for the Missouri title, but it was a controversial victory; Blackwell had both feet on the top rope as he covered Race ... AWA World tag champs The Road Warriors battled NWA World tag champs Dusty Rhodes and Manny Fernandez to a double-disqualification ... *Sports Review Wrestling* and its sister publications offered \$100,000 to Gary Hart to end his managerial agreement with Chris Adams.

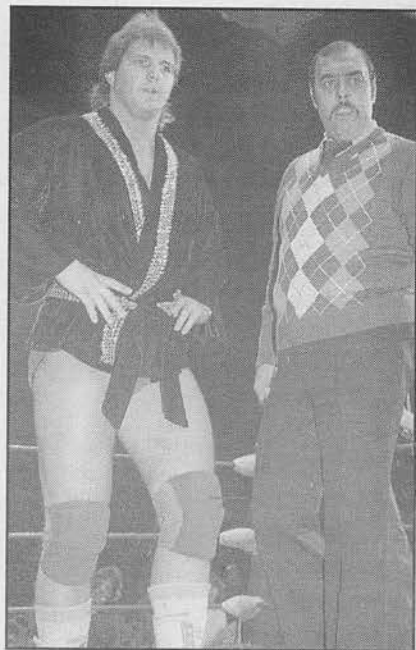
NWA RATINGS: 1—Ric Flair; 2—Dusty Rhodes; 3—Wahoo McDaniel; 4—Kerry Von Erich; 5—Ronnie Garvin; 6—Pez What-

ley; 7—Jesse Barr; 8—Cowboy Ron Bass; 9—Chris Adams; 10—Billy Jack Haynes.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Rick Martel; 2—Jim Garvin; 3—Nick Bockwinkel; 4—Mr. Saito; 5—Billy Robinson; 6—Brad Rheingans; 7—Jim Brunzell; 8—Crusher Blackwell; 9—King Kong Bundy; 10—Curt Hennig.

WWF RATINGS: 1—Hulk Hogan; 2—Greg Valentine; 3—Tito Santana; 4—John Studd; 5—Ken Patera; 6—Junkyard Dog; 7—Sgt. Slaughter; 8—Nikolai Volkoff; 9—Jimmy Snuka; 10—Barry Windham.

TAG TEAMS: 1—The Road Warriors; 2—Dusty Rhodes & Manny Fernandez; 3—Dick Murdoch & Adrian Adonis; 4—Rick Morton & Robert Gibson; 5—Tommy Rogers & Bobby Fulton; 6—Steve Keirn & Stan Lane; 7—Ron Bass & Black Bart; 8—Krusher Khrushchev & Jim Neidhart; 9—Scott & Bill Irwin; 10—Barry Windham & Mike Rotundo.



The relationship between Chris Adams and manager Gary Hart infuriated many people in 1984. In fact, *Sports Review Wrestling* offered Hart \$100,000 if he would sever his ties to Adams.



# NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1989

**A**NDRE THE GIANT and Haku (managed by Bobby Heenan) won the WWF World tag team title from Demolition Ax and Smash ... Rick and Scott Steiner captured their first world tag team title, winning the WCW belts from Michael Hayes and Jim Garvin in Atlanta ... NWA World champion Ric Flair got revenge on Terry Funk by beating him in an "I Quit" match. Gary Hart, The Great Muta, and The Dragon Master attacked Flair afterward. Sting and Lex Luger later joined the fray. Luger ended the evening by smashing Flair's *PWI* Wrestler of the Decade trophy and Sting's Most Popular Wrestler of the Year award. A month later, Funk announced his retirement ... Jacques and Raymond Rougeau left the WWF. Jacques said he'd never return without his brother ... The Memphis faithful booed Jerry Lawler after he abandoned partner Dutch Mantel, allowing him to take a severe beating from several rule-breakers ... Hulk Hogan and Brutus Beefcake again beat Zeus, Hogan's co-star in *No Holds Barred*, and Randy Savage in a steel cage match ... Haystacks Calhoun died on December 7 at the age of 55 ... Former tag team partners Chris Adams and Eric Embry began feuding in the USWA. Embry even went so far as to shove Chris' wife, Toni ... Candi Devine pinned Judy Martin on December 6 to win the AWA World Women's title. Devine would be the last holder of the title, which was abandoned in 1991 ... Davey Boy Smith was suspended by Stampede officials after he power-slammed a referee during a match with rival Johnny Smith ... Sting pinned Flair to win the NWA Iron

Man tournament at Starrcade. The Road Warriors captured the Iron Team tourney ... Stan Hansen and Genichiro Tenryu vacated the All-Japan International tag title in November, but won it back in a tournament in December.

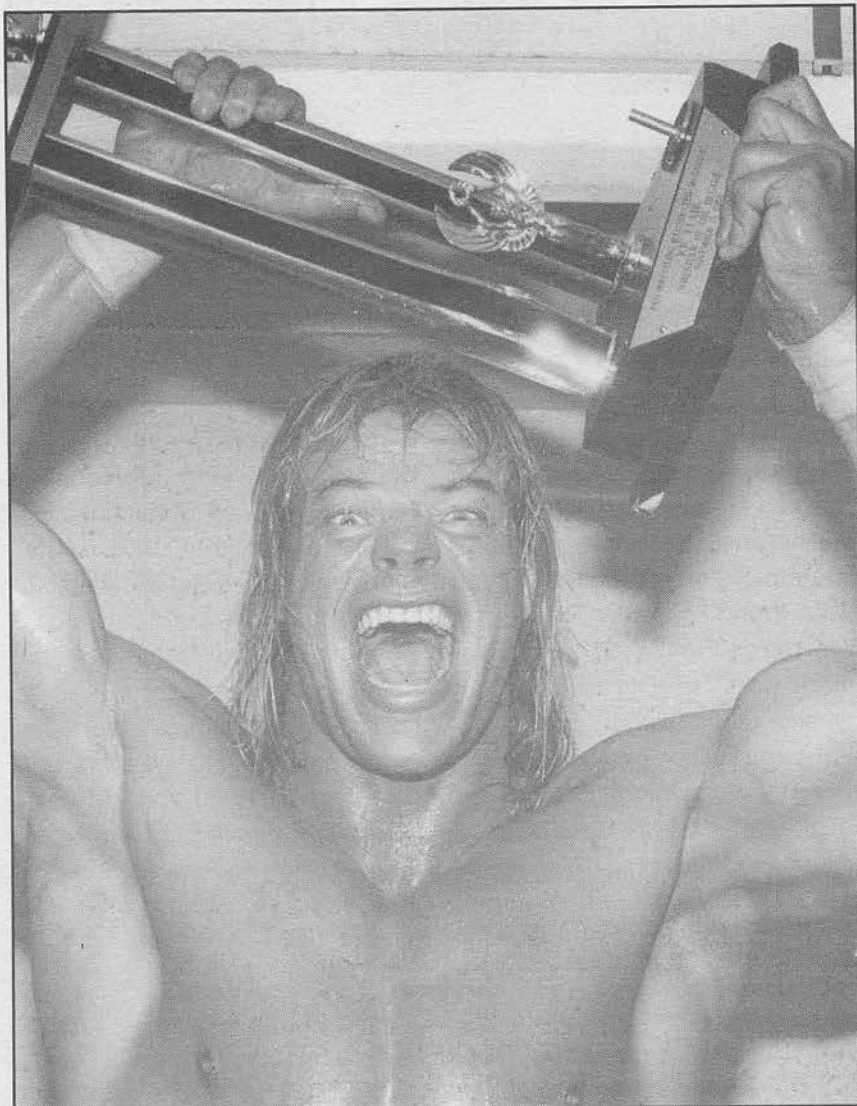
**NWA RATINGS:** 1—Ric Flair; 2—Lex Luger; 3—Sting; 4—The Great Muta; 5—Tom Zenk; 6—Buzz Sawyer; 7—Brian Pillman; 8—Mike Rotundo; 9—Kendall Windham; 10—Kevin Sullivan.

**AWA RATINGS:** 1—Larry Zbyszko; 2—Mr. Saito; 3—Paul Diamond; 4—The Trooper; 5—Pat Tanaka; 6—Tommy Jammer; 7—

Jonnie Stewart; 8—Doug Somers; 9—John Nord; 10—Akio Sato.

**WWF RATINGS:** 1—Hulk Hogan; 2—The Ultimate Warrior; 3—Curt Hennig; 4—Dino Bravo; 5—Roddy Piper; 6—Randy Savage; 7—Rick Rude; 8—Rick Martel; 9—Dusty Rhodes; 10—Jake Roberts.

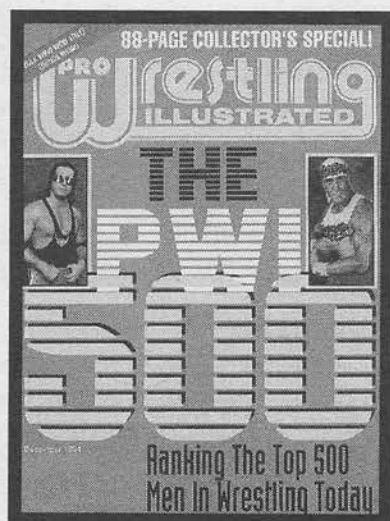
**TAG TEAMS:** 1—Rick & Scott Steiner; 2—The Road Warriors; 3—Andre the Giant & Haku; 4—Demolition; 5—The Midnight Express; 6—Mike Enos & Wayne Bloom; 7—The Hart Foundation; 8—Ole & Arn Anderson; 9—The Powers of Pain; 10—Doom. □



Lex Luger enjoyed spoiling Ric Flair's party in 1989. Luger destroyed Flair's *Wrestler of the Decade* trophy, an award given by *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*. He also wrecked *PWI*'s Most Popular Wrestler of the Year award.

# this month in...

## PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED



### SPECIAL ISSUE!

#### The PWI 500

A comprehensive ranking of the top 500 wrestlers, complete with cross-referencing, personal stats, and mini-biographies of each grappler!

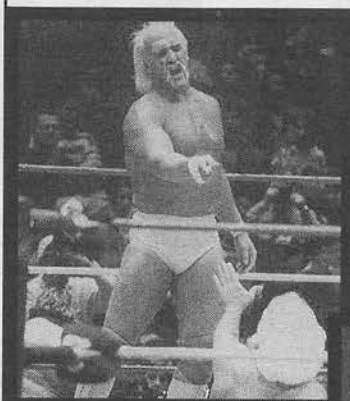
### PLUS ...

The **HULK HOGAN-RIC FLAIR** poll! ... **JIM NEIDHART**: the man who poisoned **OWEN'S** heart ... An exclusive "Press Conference" with **TED DiBIASE** ... Why **BIG VAN VADER** and **YOKOZUNA** will never return to the top ... "Spraypaint my horses? I'll lynch you!" Inside the **PUBLIC ENEMY-FUNK** war! ... A full-color centerfold and career bio of **STEVE AUSTIN**

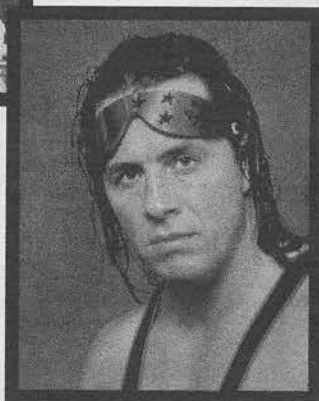
All this—and much more!—in the December 1994 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*



## Inside Wrestling



**HULK HOGAN**  
in paradise ...  
and  
**RIC FLAIR**  
feels the thunder!



A psychologist analyzes the **HART** feud: "It's all **BRET'S** fault!"

### PLUS ...

Bang, bang! WCW finally got **CACTUS JACK**! ... Why **SPARKY PLUGG** deserves a world title shot ... **IAN** and **AXL ROTTEN**: "If we weren't in wrestling, we'd be on death row!" ... *Ay, caramba!* You never saw midget wrestling like *this*! ... **DONN E. ALLEN**: "I'm so proud to be last in the *PWI* 500!"

All this—and much more!—in the December 1994 issue of *Inside Wrestling*





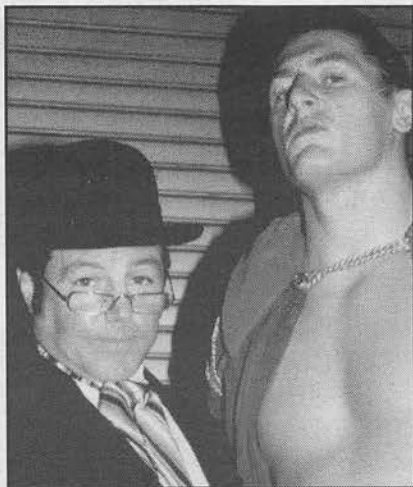
## YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 5)

Chris Candido vs. Terry Funk ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express vs. Public Enemy ... Tammy Fytch vs. Jason. The mind reels.

Which promotion is better? I don't know, and I don't care—I like them both. I simply wish they could get together for this supercard. It would give ECW and SMW additional exposure.

WILLIAM SHERWOOD  
Martinsburg, WV



Say what you will about Lord Steven Regal's underhanded tactics and Sir William's interference. Regal is WCW TV champion again, and that pleases reader Harry Simon.

### SHAWN'S SKILLS

Shawn Michaels is probably the greatest Intercontinental champion ever. A great athlete, no doubt. But what about his skills as a manager? No, he's not billed as such, but the "Heartbreak Kid" has guided Diesel, an underachiever in other federations, to the I-C title. The bottom line is that Shawn Michaels is the reason why Diesel is a success. Michaels is showing his skills in every aspect of the sport.

KENNETH HOCKADAY  
Brooklyn, NY

### A REGAL RETURN

All done? Good. I hope everybody had a fine old time when Larry Zbyszko hung up his an-

nouncer's mike and came out of retirement to win the WCW TV title from Lord Steven Regal. Zbyszko and the mainstream public crowd in delight. They took every opportunity to praise Larry Z's "remarkable" comeback ("Thumbs Up" and "Blindsided", October 1994). Just one problem: No one was keeping tabs on the former champ.

Regal was more than content to let Zbyszko have his moment, knowing it would be just that—a moment. While Zbyszko was boasting, Regal was training. At the Clash of the Champions, Regal pinned Zbyszko to regain the belt. Yes, I know Sir William interfered. I know that Regal grabbed the ropes for leverage. But it's not like Zbyszko would ever stoop to such depths, right? Just ask Bruno Sammartino.

Now Regal is the TV champion again and Zbyszko is back to trading one-liners with Gordon Solie and Dusty Rhodes. It's like the Regal-Zbyszko feud never existed at all. But it sure was a fun ride, wasn't it?

Oh, I don't have a point or anything. I just thought I'd rub every-

body's nose in it. All hail Lord Steven Regal!

HARRY SIMON  
Las Vegas, NV

### THINK GLOBALLY!

I think your family of magazines should give more coverage to the Global Wrestling Federation. It seems to be one of the most exciting federations in the entire country. With superstars such as Rod Price and Alex Porteau leading the way, the only way the GWF can go is up. These fabulous wrestlers deserve more ink.

EDDIE ALLSHOUSE  
Wilmerding, PA

### WWFANATIC

I read your family of magazines every month and have to say that they are the best. However, I am always reading that your readers are coming down on the WWF, and that WCW is the better federation. If so, why has the WWF been on top for so long? The WWF has the world's best wrestler in Bret Hart, along with Razor Ramon and Diesel to boot. This is the "new generation." I grew up watching the WWF and they are just changing with the times. The only thing that hasn't changed is the WWF being number one and leaving everybody else behind.

CHRISTINE JOHNSON  
Uniontown, PA

### STILL THE MAN

Strap yourselves in, Hogan fans! The ride on this championship rollercoaster will be a short one. Hogan may have got the best of Flair this time around, but you can be sure that when the smoke clears, Ric Flair, the greatest of all-time, will wear the WCW World championship around his waist. *Whooooooo!*

JIM McCABE  
Toronto, Ontario ☐

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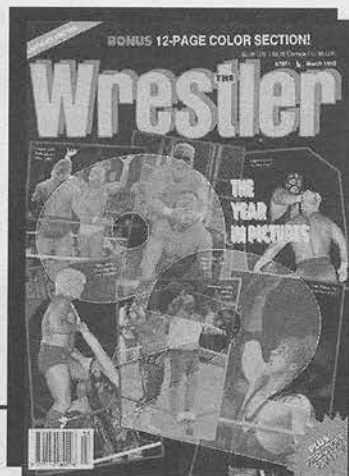
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## WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 7)

both WWF alumni as well, also became champions in Orlando, by defeating **Cactus Jack** and **Kevin Sullivan** for the WCW World tag team belts. "We've got it all," Orndorff exclaimed. "Intelligence, leadership, guts—"

"And good looks!" Roma chipped in. Will those qualities be enough to retain the belts? We'll find out.

Last February, veteran promoter **Jim Crockett** unveiled the World Wrestling Network in New York. While the inaugural card went well, Crockett decided to return to the South, the area he knows best. His new federation, NWA Championship Wrestling, held its inaugural TV taping in Chattanooga, Tennessee. **Peggy Lee Leather** was its first women's champion, but she subsequently lost the belt to **Bambi** at the taping. Other federation titles are to be determined later. Many Smoky Mountain Wrestling stars took part (**The Rock 'n' Roll Express**, **Chris Candido**, and managers **Jim Cornette** and **Tammy Fytch**), along with veterans **Greg Valentine** and **Dory Funk Jr.**

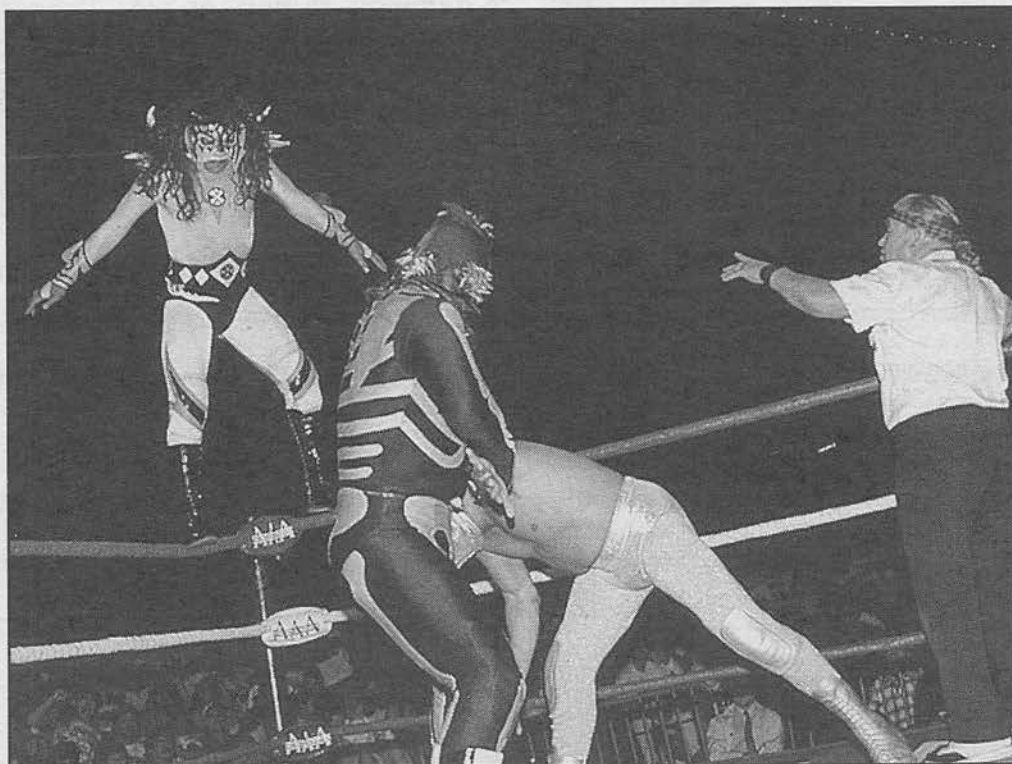
Speaking of Dory, he and brother **Terry** recently lost to ECW tag team champions **Public Enemy** in a barbed-wire match. During the bout, Terry asked spectators for chairs. They re-

sponded in plural, showering dozens of chairs into the ring. Thankfully, no one was hurt in the flurry. Strange breed, those ECW fans.

Perhaps a homecoming was all **Sid Vicious** needed. The native of West Memphis, Arkansas, now wrestles on the other side of the Mississippi River in Memphis, and he's USWA champion! Vicious won the title in bizarre fashion, beating **Jerry Lawler** by forfeit,

drew well, and IWC/AAA may plan additional cards outside of its California stronghold. Many of AAA's top stars (**Konnor**, **El Hijo del Santo**, and **Rey Misterio Jr.**) wrestled in New York and Chicago, along with American competitors like **2 Cold Scorpio**. It's excellent wrestling, especially for those who enjoy the aerial style.

Some of the best independent wrestlers have been warming up



Psicosis prepares to jump on El Hijo del Santo, who is being held by La Parka. Mexican wrestling came further north of the border than ever before when the IWC promotion held a card in New York featuring AAA stars.

but he has since defended the belt well. This latest comeback of Sid's may be the real deal.

Many Mexican-Americans reside in Chicago and New York. They recently got a taste of home when the IWC promotion, in conjunction with Mexico's AAA federation, ran cards in each city. Both

South Africa's chilly fans. (Remember, winter falls in July and August in the Southern hemisphere.) **Giant Warrior** and **Dusty Wolfe** joined homeland favorites **Danie Brits** and **Danie Voges** on the card.

That's what's happening. See you at the matches! □

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2352	Belly	3371	Depeche Mode	5831	Judas Priest	4221	Peter Gabriel
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4361	Billy Idol	3472	Dire Straits	5461	King's X	7462	Pink Floyd
5632	Billy Joel	3733	Dream Theater	5462	The Kinks	7641	Poison
2524	Black Sabbath	3871	Duran Duran	5472	KISS	7671	Porno For Pyros
2523	Black Crowes	3242	The Eagles	5332	Led Zeppelin	7745	Primus
2544	Blind Melon	2741	Eddie Brickell	5366	Lemonheads	7762	Prong
3951	Bob Dylan	5641	Elton John	5721	Lenny Kravitz	1831	Queen
2661	Bon Jovi	3681	Enuff Z'nuff	5451	Lillian Axe	1832	Queensryche
2662	Bonham	5642	Eric Johnson	3671	Lita Ford	7363	R.E.M.
2731	Breeders	2525	Eric Clapton	5484	LIVE	7232	Radiohead
2769	Brother Cane	3981	Extreme	5962	Lynch Mob	7265	Ramones
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2852	Bulletboys	3531	Fleetwood Mac	3841	Melissa Etheridge	7521	Robert Plant
2881	Butthole Surfers	3673	Foreigner	6382	Metallica	7832	Rod Stewart
9433	Catherine Wheel	4362	Genesis	2651	Michael Bolton	7651	Rolling Stones
9431	Cheryl Wheeler	8462	George Thorogood	6431	Midnight Oil	7652	Rollins Band
2461	Cinderella	4461	Gin Blossoms	6443	Mighty M. Bosstones	7871	Rush
2656	Collective Soul	4721	Grateful Dead	6463	Ministry	7223	Sacred Reich
2663	Concrete Blonde	4731	Great White	6252	Mitch Malloy	7261	Santana
2671	Elvis Costello	4737	Green Day	6672	Morrissey	7374	Sepultura
2683	Counting Crows	4735	Green Jelly	6682	Motley Crue	6262	Sinead O'Connor
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						8662	Tool
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						8221	U2
						8241	UB40
						8451	Ugly Kid Joe
						8743	Urge Overkill
						8262	Van Halen
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# NO HOLDS BARRED

(Continued from page 8)

outdrew the most recent WWF PPV.

Now, I'm not going to sit here and write that Bash at the Beach's success isn't directly related to Hogan's presence. It had a lot to do with the "Hulkster." But a good portion of the viewing audience had to include former WWF watchers, and those people

The WWF shot itself in the foot by going against its tried and true philosophy: We're the best. Nobody else exists. Why should we wrestle against those minor federations and give them credibility?

The thinking in these parts was that the WWF was misjudging the situation. Sure, cooperation would

WWF has suddenly lumped itself with the USWA and SMW. The experiment was a complete failure.

The time has come for the WWF to go back to being arrogant.

Clearly, the only cooperation that would benefit the WWF is an alliance with WCW. Times have changed, however, and WCW is now less likely to want an alliance than the WWF. WCW is in the position of power; it has Hogan, Flair, and Sting, arguably the three most popular wrestlers in North America. The WWF could score some points by taking Sid Vicious from the USWA, but Sid has lost much of his drawing power. He isn't the answer.

There's only one reasonable answer: The WWF must reverse direction and go back to ignoring the independents. Make believe they don't exist. Be arrogant. You know, I'm starting to believe people like arrogance. It's a sign of confidence.

Of course, it's hard for the WWF to be arrogant. The federation has been knocked down a few pegs by a couple of significant losses in court. Even the McMahon victory had a negative impact; once again, the public learned about rampant steroid use in the federation. Hogan's gone and he's probably not coming back. There isn't another star like him on the horizon.

So maybe the WWF had its one great run for a decade and now it's time to go back to being a run-of-the-mill federation. Maybe it's WCW's turn (although I'm not convinced Hogan will stick around long enough or wrestle enough to impact the arena shows).

If that's the case, fine. The WWF was a lousy top dog. □



Having WWF World champion Bret Hart battle Jerry Lawler in Memphis gives the USWA a financial boost. But does it do anything to help the WWF's prestige?

wouldn't have turned to WCW if there wasn't a deeper dissatisfaction with the WWF's product.

Personally, I don't think WWF's brief demise (and they're not dead yet, not by a longshot) has anything to do with steroid scandals or McMahon trials. The general public's taste for entertainment is rarely based on moral grounds (just check out what people watch on TV).

give the independents credibility. But it would also improve the quality of wrestling in the WWF and make it into a true *World Wrestling Federation*.

But it didn't happen that way. Just as the WWF originally feared, cooperation with the independents improved the credibility of the indies and destroyed the public's perception of the WWF. By watering down its own product, the

# CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

(Continued from page 14)



Blood is flowing all over Terry Funk as brother Dory looks on. The Funks gave all they could against ECW tag team champions Public Enemy, but lost a violent barbed-wire match.

Somewhere amongst the mayhem, Funk piledrived Grunge onto a mound of chairs. The match ended when Grunge and Rock piled onto Terry and pinned him while he was tangled in wire.

In other bouts: Bad Breed beat Rockin' Rebel & Hack Meyer ... ECW TV champion Mikey Whipwreck beat Chad Austin ... Tommy Dreamer beat Steve Richards; Dreamer was then pinned by Mr. Hughes in an impromptu bout ... Tasmaniac & Sabu defeated The Pit Bulls ... The Sandman pinned Tommy Cairo in a "Singapore caning" match ... ECW heavyweight champ Shane Douglas beat Sabu.

**Saucon, PA (Correspondent—Timothy A. Walker):** Tito Santana and Rick Martel were once good friends. They held the WWF World tag team title for five months in 1987-88, but you'd never know after watching them battle each other on American Commonwealth Wrestling's "Saucon Slam '94" card.

In desperation, Martel brought a chair into the ring to smash Santana. The referee immediately

disqualified "The Model" when he saw this infraction.

In other bouts: The Comet beat J.R. Willett ... Max Thrasher beat Mad Mack Diesel ... ACW light heavyweight champion Johnny Graham pinned Lord Zoltan ... Johnny Gunn & Tommy Dreamer beat The Goodfellas ... Frankie "Third Degree" Burns beat The Amazing Martine in a midget match ... ACW heavyweight champion T. Rantula pinned Glenn Osbourne.

**Memphis, TN (Correspondent—Garry Fuller):** Though his brother, Eddie, is no longer in the USWA, Doug Gilbert is still causing headaches for fan favorites there, specifically Jerry Lawler and Brian Christopher.

Gilbert, who has won the Southern title on several occasions, got another shot at it when Christopher put his belt on the line at the Mid-South Coliseum. Christopher dominated action from the start, though Gilbert did manage to connect with a few cheap shots. Just when it looked like Christopher had the match under control, former referee Scott

Bowden approached the ring.

While the referee was distracted, Bowden slipped Gilbert a roll of coins. He blasted Christopher in the face. When the official turned around, he saw Gilbert on top of Brian and made the three-count.

In other bouts: Spellbinder beat Super Mario ... Koko B. Ware defeated Reggie B. Fine by disqualification ... Tommy Rich beat Frank Morell & Kevin Christian in a handicap match ... USWA tag team champions PG-13 defeated The Eliminators ... The Moondogs, Jimmy Valiant, & Brian Christopher beat Tommy Rich, Scott Bowden, Doug Gilbert, & The Bodyguard ... Spike Huber & Sid Vicious defeated Jeff Gaylord & King Kong Bundy. □

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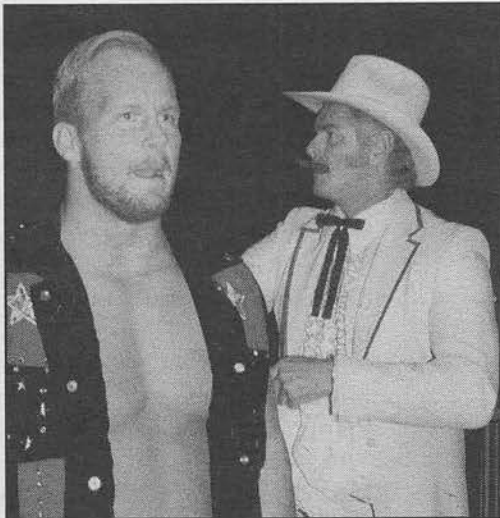
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# YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 16)



Col. Robert Parker may not accompany Steve Austin to ringside anymore, but insists that he can fight his own battles. The manager said he still guides Austin behind the scenes.

he's runnin' home to that old run-down ranch of his in Texas, cryin' for his daddy! Steve Austin is not like the Rhodes family. He is not a coward. He fights his own battles. I have never offered him any illegal assistance, only the expert managerial guidance that I provide to my entire Stud Stable. Mr. Austin is capable of taking care of himself. How else could he have held the U.S. title all this time? I am still his manager, but I'm doing my work behind the scenes."

\*\*\*

**Q:** "I'd like to ask The Nasty Boys if they think they'll ever win the WCW World tag team title again. I don't think they will!"—Karl Dammers, College Park, MD

**A:** "Who cares what you think?" screamed Brian Knobs. "Me and [Jerry] Sags are the greatest team WCW has ever seen. We're a lot better than Cactus Jack and Kevin Sullivan. They only stole our belts because they paid off a referee. And we're better than [Paul] Orndorff and [Paul] Roma. They

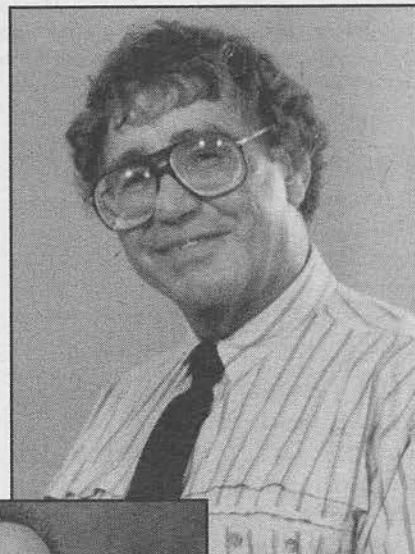
say they're 'Pretty Wonderful.' Me and Sags ain't pretty, but we're the meanest tag team you ever saw. We just finished bashin' skulls in Japan. We're ready for anyone in WCW. We'll take them on a ride through Nastyville. We'll get those belts back and hold on to them even longer than the last time we had 'em!"

\*\*\*

**Q:** "This question is for Smoky Mountain Commissioner Bob Armstrong: I thought you weren't supposed to wrestle anymore. How can you be a commissioner and a wrestler at the same time?"—Laurie Elliott, Harlan, KY

**A:** "I know it's hard for some of the fans to believe, but I really can separate my wrestling from my job as commissioner," said

Armstrong. "At this point, I'd rather just be commissioner, but people like Jim Cornette and all his thugs won't let that happen. When he insults my family and starts attacking my character, that's where I draw the line. I have the right to defend myself and my family's honor. Cornette is nothing but a coward who gets others to do his dirty work for him. My family comes before anything else in my life. I'll never be too old to fight for them." □



Smoky Mountain Commissioner Bob Armstrong says he can separate his wrestling from his administrative work. He notes attacks from Jim Cornette force him to stand up for his family's honor.



Brian Knobs of The Nasty Boys says he and Jerry Sags are the best team WCW has ever seen, and adds they will regain the federation's world title from Paul Orndorff and Paul Roma.

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## BOB BACKLUND

**T**HE "ALL-AMERICAN BOY" a rulebreaker? It's hard to believe that Bob Backlund has gone that route. Frustrated over his lack of success in the ring of late, Backlund appears to be heading in that direction.

The first signs of this incredible attitude change were on display following Backlund's loss to WWF World champion Bret Hart. Backlund thought he had pinned the "Hitman" and was infuriated when the referee told him he only got a two-count. Hart eventually pinned Backlund with a small package. He refused to shake Bret's hand afterward, instead trapping him in a chicken wing. It took several officials to pry Backlund off Hart.

No one knows if Backlund will remain a rulebreaker, but no one can deny that the former WWF World champ was one of the most successful fan favorites ever.

The Minnesota native was a former NCAA wrestling champion and was trained for a pro career by Eddie Sharkey and Dory and Terry Funk. He made his debut in 1973, competing in the AWA and independents. Backlund won his first major singles belt in 1976, when he beat Harley Race for the Missouri title.

But it was in the WWF where Backlund was destined for fame. He defeated Superstar Graham for the World title on February 20, 1978, in Madison Square Garden and didn't

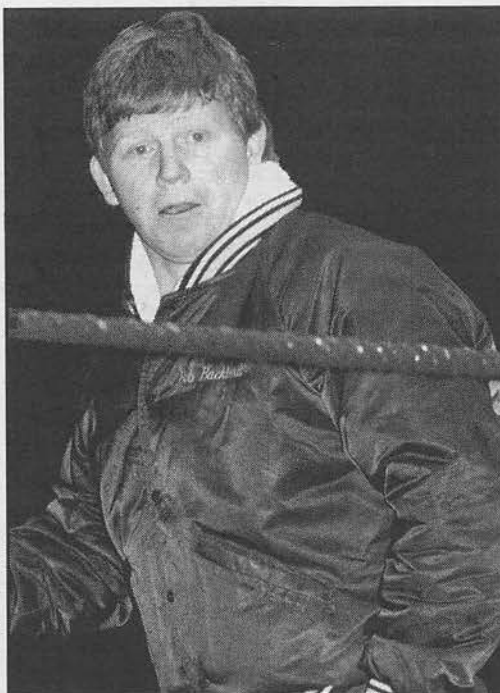
many more.

The end of Backlund's reign came when his manager, Arnold Skaaland, threw in the towel when The Iron Sheik caught the champ in a camel clutch on December 26, 1983. The Madison Square Garden fans were stunned as the Sheik was given the title.

Backlund was injured and unable to wrestle in the scheduled rematch. The title opportunity went to Hulk Hogan, who won the championship. Backlund left the WWF shortly thereafter to compete on the independent circuit, but soon went into semi-retirement.

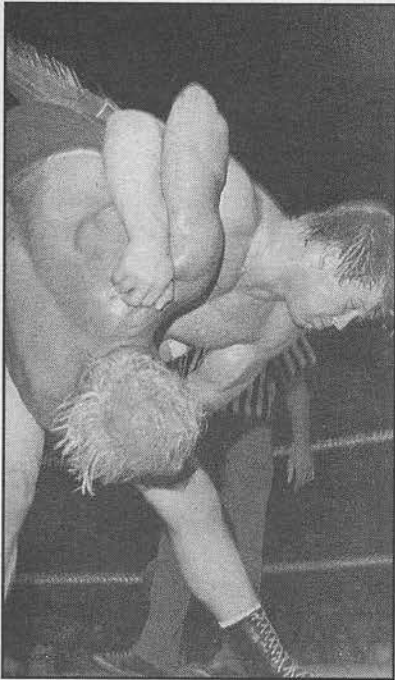
It wasn't until 1991 that the "All-American Boy" began competing regularly again. He appeared on several independent cards, gaining victories over Terry Funk, Ivan Koloff, and Paul Orndorff. Only months after criticizing the WWF, he announced his intentions to return. He defeated the likes of Papa Shango, Shawn Michaels, and Rick Martel, but lost decisively to Razor Ramon at WrestleMania IX. Since then, he has failed to rise above mid-card status.

Is there another major title in Backlund's future? That's hard to say, but for all he's accomplished, he is deserving of his time in our "Spotlight."

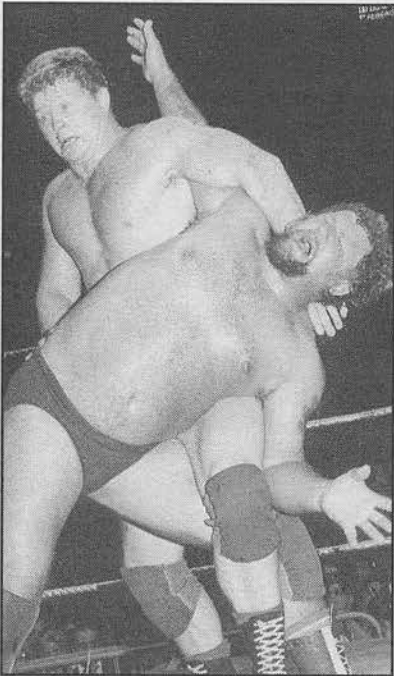


relinquish it until nearly six years later.

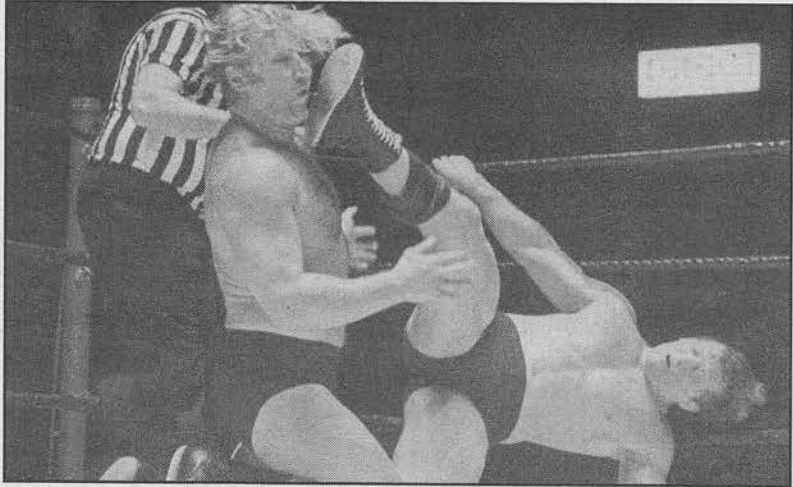
During his reign, he took on every rulebreaker who challenged him. He had memorable feuds with Graham, Jesse Ventura, Bob Orton, Jimmy Snuka, Sgt. Slaughter, Pat Patterson, Greg Valentine, and



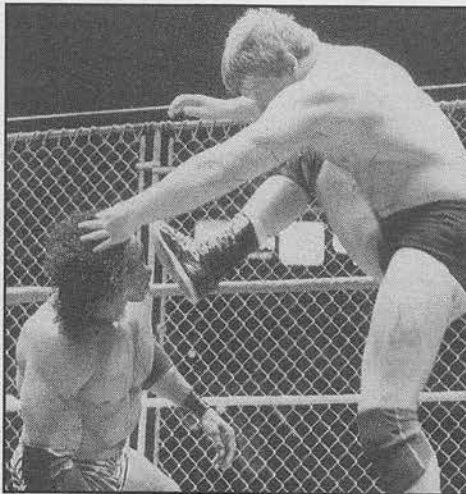
▲ March 1978: Bob Backlund defeated Superstar Graham for the WWF World title the month before, but they met in a rematch at Madison Square Garden. Backlund's superb technical skill overcame Graham's muscularity.



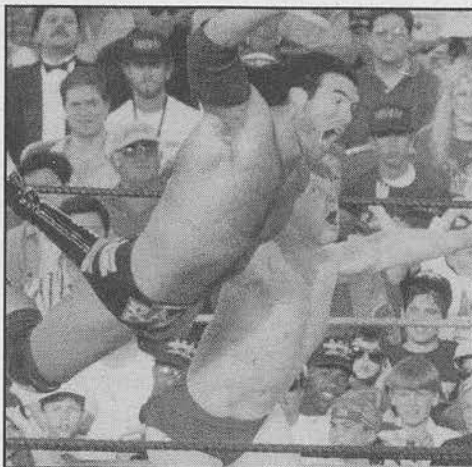
▲ September 1980: Backlund faced another champion in New York, taking on NWA counterpart Harley Race. Backlund won, but Race was furious the bout was not best-of-three falls and called the WWF "a two-bit, Mickey Mouse operation."



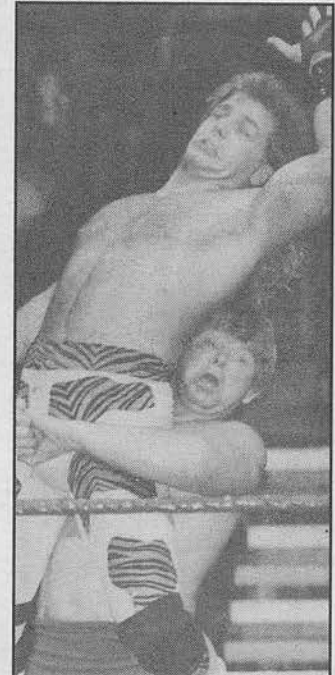
▲ March 1979: THE WRESTLER would call this "the match that changed wrestling forever," as Backlund met Nick Bockwinkel in Toronto in the first-ever clash of WWF and AWA champions. It ended after 38 minutes in a double-countout.



▲ June 1982: Perhaps Backlund's most memorable title defense was this cage match in New York against Jimmy Snuka. It's where "Superfly" leapt from the top of the cage toward a prone Backlund, who rolled out of the way and won the match.



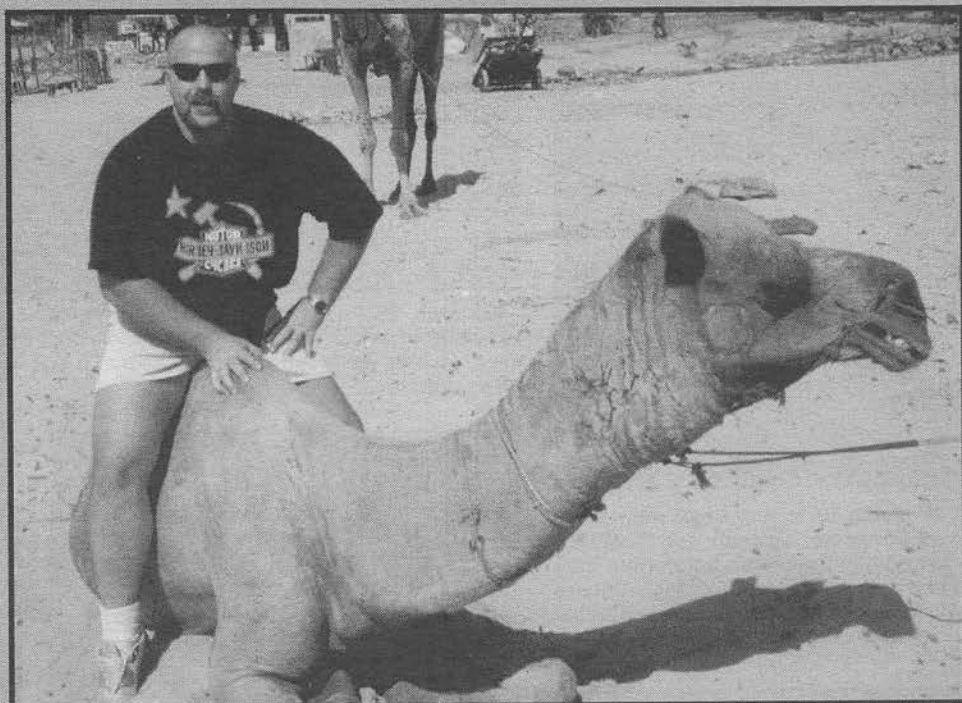
▼ November 1992: After losing the title in 1983, Backlund became an independent before eventually returning to the WWF. There, he took on Shawn Michaels, and appeared to be en route back to a championship.



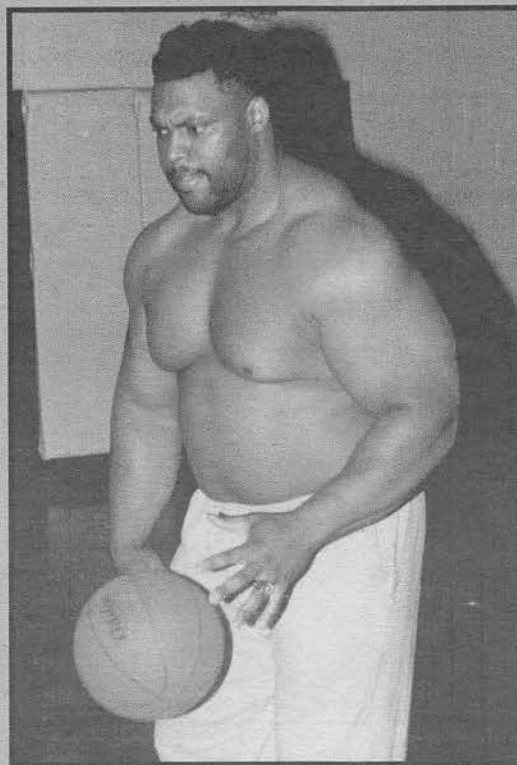
◀ April 1993: That comeback fizzled under the Las Vegas heat at WrestleMania IX. Backlund took on Razor Ramon, then a rulebreaker, and tried to nail him against the ropes. However, Ramon rallied for the pin.



# Beyond The Squared Circle



▲ Remember the old advertising slogan about walking a mile for a camel? It appears Vladimir Koloff may have to walk a camel for a mile! Koloff and his dromedary are on Juhu Beach in Bombay, India, during a wrestlers' tour.



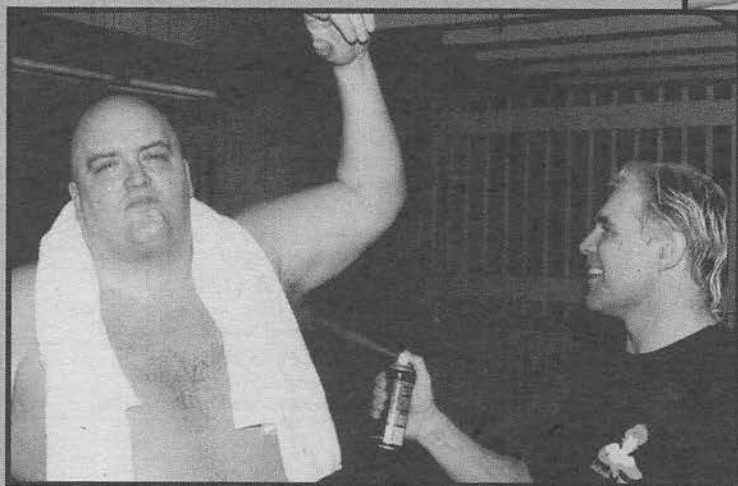
▲ Like father, like son? Maybe. Big John Studd poses with his three-year-old son Sean, who should grow quite a bit if family genes are indicative.

◀ Ice Train takes a few shots at the hoop during some free time in the gym in Indianapolis. Is he hoping the Pacers will invite him to preseason camp to give Reggie Miller some competition?



▲ Longtime fans may remember Dickie Steinborn as a solid wrestler who later became a first-class promoter. Now he's an accomplished professional photographer.

▼ Former WWF World champion Pedro Morales receives a "Lifetime Achievement Award" from New York State Athletic Commission Chairman Randy Gordon (at one time a writer for THE WRESTLER) during a AAA/IWC card at The Paramount.

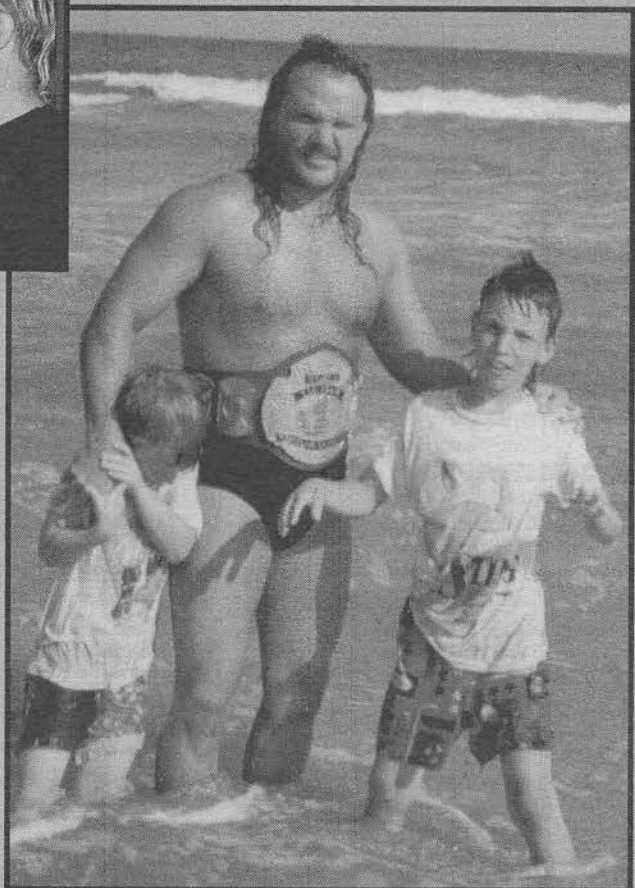


▲ While Hulk Hogan endorsed deodorant, King Kong Bundy (with Rip Rogers spraying) actually uses the stuff. That's good news for the health of all his overpowered opponents!

▼ PWF star George South enjoys his vacation time at the beach with sons Brock, 6, and George Jr., 10. George and sons are obviously enjoying the South ... South Carolina, that is.



▲ As part of manager Paul E. Dangerously's training strategy, Sabu regularly stalks the woods, as if he were a wild animal. You never know when he's ready to strike!

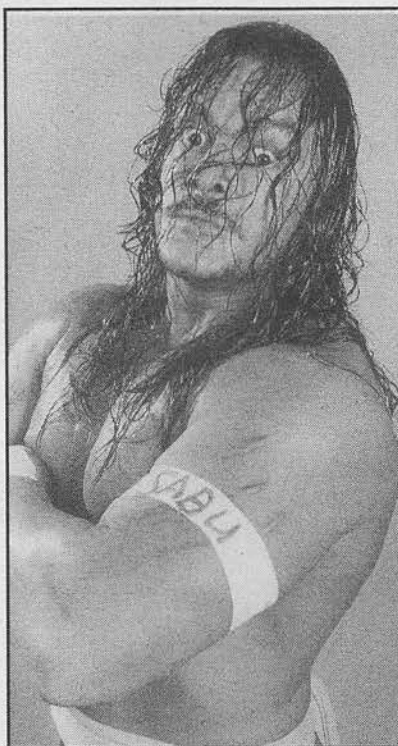




# Wrestler<sup>THE</sup>

## TOP 10

- 1 BRET HART**  
234, Calgary, Alberta  
(1) **WWF World champion**
- 2 HULK HOGAN**  
275, Venice Beach, CA  
(2) **WCW World champion**
- 3 STING**  
260, Venice Beach, CA  
(9) **No. 2 contender: WCW World title**
- 4 DIESEL**  
356, Las Vegas, NV  
(5) **WWF Intercontinental champion**
- 5 RIC FLAIR**  
243, Minneapolis, MN  
(3) **No. 4 contender: WCW World title**
- 6 LEX LUGER**  
265, Chicago, IL  
(10) **No. 4 contender: WWF World title**
- 7 STEVE AUSTIN**  
241, Dallas, TX  
(4) **U.S. heavyweight champion**
- 8 STEVE REGAL**  
247, Blackpool, England  
(6) **WCW TV champion**
- 9 TONY ANTHONY**  
235, Bucksnort, TN  
(8) **Smoky Mountain champion**
- 10 SABU**  
220, Bombay  
(-) **No. 1 contender: ECW title**



Sabu

## TAG TEAMS

- 1 THE HEADSHRINKERS**  
Combined weight: 520 pounds  
(1) **WWF World tag team champions**
- 2 MARCUS BAGWELL & THE PATRIOT**  
Combined weight: 491 pounds  
(8) **No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title**
- 3 PAUL ORNDORFF & PAUL ROMA**  
Combined weight: 488 pounds  
(2) **WCW World tag team champions**
- 4 THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**  
Combined weight: 453 pounds  
(-) **Smoky Mountain tag team champions**
- 5 BAM BAM BIGELOW & IRWIN R. SCHYSTER**  
Combined weight: 616 pounds  
(-) **No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title**
- 6 THE NASTY BOYS**  
Combined weight: 585 pounds  
(4) **No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title**
- 7 PUBLIC ENEMY**  
Combined weight: 583 pounds  
(7) **ECW tag team champions**
- 8 THE HEAVENLY BODIES**  
Combined weight: 450 pounds  
(-) **No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title**
- 9 HULK HOGAN & STING**  
Combined weight: 535 pounds  
(-) **No. 3 contenders: WCW World tag title**
- 10 THE SMOKIN' GUNNS**  
Combined weight: 465 pounds  
(-) **No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title**

## WCW

World Champion:

**HULK HOGAN**

(C) 275, Venice Beach, CA

- 1—STEVE AUSTIN**  
(1) 241, Dallas, TX
- 2—STING**  
(8) 260, Venice Beach, CA
- 3—STEVE REGAL**  
(3) 247, Blackpool, England
- 4—RIC FLAIR**  
(2) 243, Minneapolis, MN
- 5—BIG VAN VADER**  
(5) 450, Denver, CO
- 6—RICK STEAMBOAT**  
(4) 238, Honolulu, HI
- 7—THE GUARDIAN ANGEL**  
(9) 310, Cobb County, GA
- 8—DUSTIN RHODES**  
(6) 254, Austin, TX
- 9—ARN ANDERSON**  
(-) 249, Minneapolis, MN
- 10—BRIAN PILLMAN**  
(-) 226, Cincinnati, OH

## WWF

World Champion:

**BRET HART**

(C) 234, Calgary, Alberta

- 1—DIESEL**  
(1) 356, Las Vegas, NV
- 2—OWEN HART**  
(2) 227, Calgary, Alberta
- 3—RAZOR RAMON**  
(10) 287, Miami, FL
- 4—LEX LUGER**  
(-) 265, Chicago, IL
- 5—THE UNDERTAKER**  
(-) 328, parts unknown
- 6—TATANKA**  
(8) 250, Pembroke, NC
- 7—IRWIN R. SCHYSTER**  
(6) 248, Syracuse, NY
- 8—THE KID**  
(-) 212, Minneapolis, MN
- 9—ADAM BOMB**  
(-) 292, Harrisburg, PA
- 10—BOB BACKLUND**  
(9) 234, Princeton, MN

## GLOBAL

Global Champion:

**CHRIS ADAMS**

(C) 228, Stratford, England

- 1—ROD PRICE**  
(1) 265, Los Angeles, CA
- 2—ACTION JACKSON**  
(3) 281, Dallas, TX
- 3—BLACK PRINCE**  
(5) 243, Dallas, TX
- 4—SCOTT PUTSKI**  
(-) 235, Austin, TX
- 5—ICEMAN PARSONS**  
(2) 245, St. Louis, MO
- 6—TERRY GORDY**  
(4) 289, Chattanooga, TN
- 7—JIMMY GARVIN**  
(8) 242, Charlotte, NC
- 8—ALEX PORTEAU**  
(6) 235, Dallas, TX
- 9—DEVON MICHAELS**  
(9) 231, Dallas, TX
- 10—NICK GOLDEN**  
(7) 238, Dallas, TX

## USWA

USWA Champion:

**SID VICIOUS**

(C) 318, West Memphis, AR

- 1—DOUG GILBERT**  
(5) 241, Lexington, TN
- 2—TATANKA**  
(-) 250, Pembroke, NC
- 3—BRIAN CHRISTOPHER**  
(1) 230, Memphis, TN
- 4—TOMMY RICH**  
(4) 248, Hendersonville, TN
- 5—JERRY LAWLER**  
(2) 234, Memphis, TN
- 6—JEFF GAYLORD**  
(9) 280, St. Louis, MO
- 7—KING KONG BUNDY**  
(-) 446, Atlantic City, NJ
- 8—SPIKE HUBER**  
(-) 234, Indianapolis, IN
- 9—KOKO B. WARE**  
(-) 229, Union City, TN
- 10—SPELLBINDER**  
(6) 246, parts unknown

# OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue, while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

## MOST POPULAR

- 1 HULK HOGAN**  
275, Venice Beach, CA  
Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular
- 2 BRET HART**  
234, Calgary, Alberta  
Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular
- 3 RAZOR RAMON**  
287, Miami, FL  
Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular
- 4 STING**  
260, Venice Beach, CA  
Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular
- 5 RICK STEAMBOAT**  
238, Honolulu, HI  
Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular
- 6 DUSTIN RHODES**  
254, Austin, TX  
Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular
- 7 LEX LUGER**  
265, Chicago, IL  
Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular
- 8 TONY ANTHONY**  
235, Bucksport, TN  
Last issue: unrated
- 9 THE KID**  
212, Minneapolis, MN  
Last issue: unrated
- 10 TATANKA**  
250, Pembroke, NC  
Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular

## MOST HATED

- 1 BIG VAN VADER**  
450, Denver, CO  
Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated
- 2 OWEN HART**  
227, Calgary, Alberta  
Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated
- 3 BOB BACKLUND**  
234, Princeton, MN  
Last issue: unrated
- 4 SHAWN MICHAELS**  
234, San Antonio, TX  
Last issue: unrated
- 5 BAM BAM BIGELOW**  
368, Mt. Laurel, NJ  
Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated
- 6 ARN ANDERSON**  
249, Minneapolis, MN  
Last issue: unrated
- 7 DIESEL**  
356, Las Vegas, NV  
Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated
- 8 BUNKHOUSE BUCK**  
239, Bucksport, TN  
Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated
- 9 YOKOZUNA**  
568, Samoa  
Last issue: No. 9 Most Hated
- 10 JEFF JARRETT**  
230, Nashville, TN  
Last issue: unrated

For period ended August 16, 1994

## CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of these issues in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only, and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a first-place rating, nine for second place, and so on. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, with a possible maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

### SINGLES

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| 1—BRET HART .....    | 84 points |
| 2—RIC FLAIR.....     | 81 points |
| 3—STING .....        | 50 points |
| 4—RAZOR RAMON .....  | 46 points |
| 5—STEVE AUSTIN ..... | 41 points |

### TAG TEAMS

- |                              |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| 1—THE NASTY BOYS .....       | 86 points |
| 2—THE HEADSHRINKERS .....    | 55 points |
| 3—THE QUEBECERS .....        | 52 points |
| 4—THE HEAVENLY BODIES .....  | 38 points |
| 5—RICK & SCOTT STEINER ..... | 38 points |

## SMOKY MOUNTAIN

Smoky Mountain Champion:

**TONY ANTHONY**

(C) 235, Bucksport, TN

- 1—BRUISER BEDLAM**  
(2) 235, Newark, NJ
- 2—TRACEY SMOTHERS**  
(4) 227, Atlanta, GA
- 3—CHRIS CANDIDO**  
(1) 226, Carteret, NJ
- 4—ROBERT GIBSON**  
(-) 225, Pensacola, FL
- 5—KILLER KYLE**  
(-) 303, Atlanta, GA
- 6—THE INFERNO**  
(-) 235, parts unknown
- 7—LANCE STORM**  
(-) 231, Memphis, TN
- 8—MONGOLIAN STOMPER**  
(-) 239, Mongolia
- 9—CHRIS WALKER**  
(-) 231, Atlanta, GA
- 10—STEVE SKYFIRE**  
(-) 229, Knoxville, TN

## ECW

ECW Champion:

**SHANE DOUGLAS**

(C) 223, Pittsburgh, PA

- 1—SABU**  
(1) 220, Bombay
- 2—TERRY FUNK**  
(2) 247, Amarillo, TX
- 3—TOMMY DREAMER**  
(4) 245, Yonkers, NY
- 4—CACTUS JACK**  
(-) 277, Truth or Consequences, NM
- 5—2 COLD SCORPIO**  
(-) 222, Denver, CO
- 6—911**  
(-) 310, parts unknown
- 7—JASON**  
(-) 216, Philadelphia, PA
- 8—MR. HUGHES**  
(6) 308, Kansas City, KS
- 9—TOMMY CAIRO**  
(9) 257, Philadelphia, PA
- 10—TASMANIAC**  
(5) 221, Tasmania

**AAA: AAA Champion**—Konnan; 1—El Hijo Del Santo; 2—Blue Panther; 3—The Love Machine; 4—Perro Aguayo; 5—Pscosis; 6—La Parka; 7—Eddy Guerrero; 8—Octagon; 9—Cien Caras; 10—Rey Mysterio Jr.

**IWCCW: IWCCW Champion**—Tito Santana; 1—Tony Atlas; 2—Greg Valentine; 3—Hacksaw Duggan; 4—Rick Martel; 5—Osamu Nishimura; 6—The Funny Clown; 7—Vic Steamboat; 8—Ray Odyssey; 9—Sabu; 10—Al Snow.

**MTW: MTW Champion**—Machine Gun Kelly; 1—Al Snow; 2—Bobo Brazil Jr.; 3—Sean Casey; 4—Bastion Booger; 5—Chris Carter; 6—Denny Kass; 7—Johnny Paradise; 8—Scott Summers; 9—Sabu; 10—Scott The Rock.

**PWA: PWA Champion**—The Hater; 1—Charlie Norris; 2—Nailz; 3—Hawk; 4—Blake Beverly; 5—Tommy Ferrara; 6—Storm Trooper Aaron; 7—Storm Trooper Willie; 8—Jerry Lynn; 9—Derrick Dukes; 10—Punisher.

**PWF: PWF Champion**—Russian Assassin II; 1—Italian Stallion; 2—George South; 3—Star Ryder; 4—Flaming Youth; 5—Cruel Connection II; 6—Brian Williams; 7—Troy Conyers; 8—Gladiator II; 9—Terry Austin; 10—Austin Steele.

**WWA: WWA Champion**—Friendly Frank; 1—King Kong Bundy; 2—Abuduh Singh; 3—Ray Odyssey; 4—Boy Gone Bad; 5—Ed Atlas; 6—Chris Weider; 7—Akita Kaos; 8—Gus the Greek; 9—Ramblin' Rich; 10—Duane Gill.

**WWWA: WWWA Champion**—Brutus Beefcake; 1—Jack Hammer; 2—Rick Martel; 3—Ax; 4—Nailz; 5—Hawk; 6—Sid Vicious; 7—Abdullah the Butcher; 8—The Zombie; 9—Blast; 10—Harley Lewis.



# RATINGS ANALYSIS

**Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 19 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans**

*Stables, corporations, federations, and alliances.* Only six months ago, in the June 1994 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, we lamented the downfall of wrestling's supergroups. "Special Analysis: The Demise Of Wrestling's Megagroups" offered theories as to why once-powerful groups like **The Four Horsemen** and **The Dangerous Alliance** no longer ruled wrestling.

Just when it looked like we'd seen the last of wrestling's megagroups, they've started forming all over the place again.

**Col. Robert Parker**, whom many people laughed at when he first appeared in WCW, is now one of the most powerful men in the federation. His **Stud Stable** currently includes **Steve Austin**, **Bunkhouse Buck**, **Terry Funk**, and **Meng**.

The Colonel thinks a lot of himself, but he does look out for his wrestlers. He guided Austin to the U.S. title last December and his interference has prevented numerous challengers from capturing the belt from "Stunning" Steve.

Parker also brought the unheralded Buck into WCW, where he immediately received shots at **Dustin Rhodes**. Buck even beat Rhodes several times.

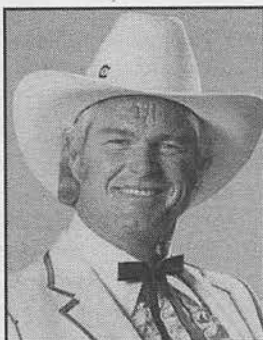
The Southern manager even secured a World title match for **Barry Windham** against **Ric Flair** at Slamboree in May. It was the "Lone Wolf's" only match since he seriously injured his knee at Beach Blast in July 1993.

Windham, however, was only a member of the Stud Stable for that one evening.

Parker also made it very clear that **Arn Anderson** would be stupid not to accept his offer and join the group. "The Enforcer," who had occasionally hinted that the Horsemen might soon be revived, did just that after turning against Rhodes at Bash at the Beach.

In the WWF, **Ted DiBiase's** influence continues to expand. The "Million-Dollar Man's" corporation now includes **Nikolai Volkoff**, an impostor **Undertaker**, and **Bam Bam Bigelow**. He expects to have **Lex Luger** under contract very soon.

Volkoff still doesn't appreciate the way his employer—or as DiBiase puts it, his "owner"—treats him, but DiBiase has infused new life into his fading career. The Moscow native is dominating the early stages of a feud with **Virgil** and could



*Col. Robert Parker*

become a legitimate title contender in the near future.

The impostor **Undertaker**, whose identity still hadn't been revealed at press time, is also excelling. He demolished numerous preliminary wrestlers and crushed **Tatanka** with a tombstone piledriver en route to a win at a TV taping.

It's too early to tell if DiBiase will be able to help Bigelow. The "Beast From The East" struggled in a feud with **Doink the Clown** earlier this year and has recently targeted the 503-pound **Mabel**. A little help from the "Million-Dollar Man," however, could be just what Bigelow needs to finally capture a title in the WWF.

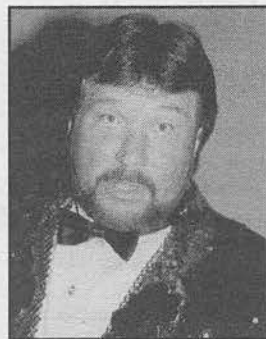
Megagroups are popping up on the independent scene as well. **Jim Cornette**, in an effort to destroy enemies like SMW Commissioner **Bob Armstrong** and his sons and **Tracey Smothers**, is assembling a **Federation of International Thugs and Eliminators**. **Bruiser Bedlam** and **Killer Kyle** are members of the organization; Terry and **Dory Funk Jr.** are heading the group's Amarillo, Texas, branch.

Bedlam struggled in a series of dock fights with Smothers, but the Funks are enjoying success against the Armstrongs. They all could prove tougher if Cornette adds new thugs to his federation and they all work together.

**Paul E. Dangerously's** Dangerous Alliance isn't as talent-rich as the groups he once had in WCW, but he does have **Sabu** and the towering **911**. 911, who was initially hired to be Sabu's handler, frequently interferes in Sabu's matches and

helps him to victory. Paul E. is constantly on the lookout for new talent and will spare no expense to sign wrestlers he thinks can help him.

What do you think of these new megagroups? Some people say they are doomed from the start because there are always too many huge egos involved. Do you think they can last? Are today's wrestlers making the right move in the long run by joining groups? Will it help them move up in the ratings and



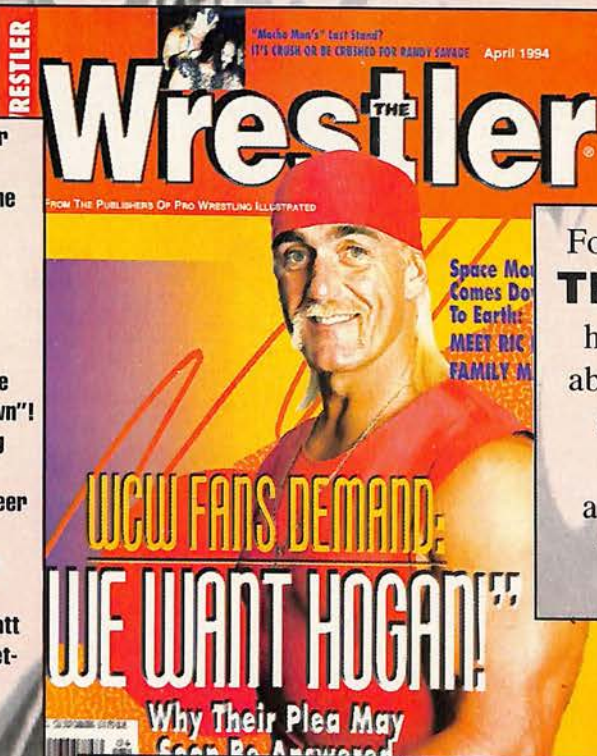
*Ted DiBiase*

become champions sooner?

**See you next month ...** Let us know your opinions on today's megagroups or on anything else concerning our ratings. Write to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o THE WRESTLER, Box 956, Fort Washington, PA 19034. □



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